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MIDWEEK Sport

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As energy bills surge again, Miliband calls for MORE windmills...

OFF HIS ED!

SEE PAGE 2



Why are Maya's new pics driving fans wild?

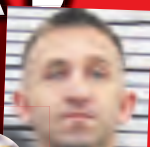
FIND OUT ON PAGE 19

KILLER COOKED HER OWN MOTHER ON THE BBQ



TURN TO PAGE 7

SICKO BOMB STALKER'S PYTHON PLOT



TURN TO PAGE 19

Crazed 23-year-old filmed her vile antics for 4 YEARS

SHOP GIRL PIDDLED ALL OVER THE VEGGIES



OUTRAGE: Kelli Tedford is accused of peeing on the produce at the health food shop where she worked



By ANNE COATES

A 23-YEAR-OLD woman was arrested after police found footage of her urinating on food products at the grocery store where she worked.

Dirty Kelli Tedford allegedly filmed herself tainting a slew of products including veg, fruit, nuts and trendy woke products such as quinoa and polenta.

Cops fear she's been making the filthy vids for four years and uploading them onto the internet for p*ss perverts to pull their plonkers to.

**FULL STORY:
SEE PAGE 5**



Kemi: we'll have to quit ECHR treaty

THE UK must look again at international agreements, Tory party leader Kemi Badenoch said yesterday.

In her first major speech on foreign policy, Badenoch (*above*) said that if the European Convention on Human Rights continued to stop the Government acting in the country's national interest, the UK would "probably have to leave" the treaty.

She said: "I have always been very clear that the ECHR should not stop us doing what is right for the people of this country and what is in our national interest, and if it continues to do so at some point we will probably have to leave."

"What I have not agreed with is deciding we should leave without having a plan for what that looks like and how to do so in a way that makes sense."

Established in 1950, the ECHR sets out the rights and freedoms that people are entitled to in the 46 signatory countries.

Tory reverse on farms tax

SHADOW Environment Secretary Victoria Atkins says the Conservatives would reverse the inheritance tax on farmers "straight away".

National Farmers' Union President Tom Bradshaw yesterday accused the Government of breaking promises with its "morally wrong" policy to bring in inheritance tax for farm businesses worth more than £1million.

Asked if the Tories would reverse the tax, Ms Atkins said: "Yes, straight away."

"We will reverse it when in government."



STARMER BOOSTS DEFENCE SPENDING

Foreign aid to be slashed to fund increase

SIR Keir Starmer yesterday slashed the UK's foreign aid budget to fund a dramatic increase in defence spending – in response to "tyrant" Vladimir Putin and uncertainty over US President Donald Trump's commitment to European security.

The Prime Minister said spending on defence would rise from its current 2.3% share of the economy to 2.5% in 2027.

That will mean spending £13.4billion more every year from 2027, something which Sir Keir acknowledged will also

require "extremely difficult and painful choices".

The PM said he wanted that figure to reach 3% of gross domestic product during the next Parliament.

But to fund it, development assistance aid will be slashed from its current level of 0.5% of gross national income to just 0.3% in 2027.

Sir Keir also said the plan amounted to "the biggest sustained increase in defence spending since the end of the Cold War".

Taking spending on the security and intelligence

services into account as well as defence, the budget will amount to a 2.6% share of the economy from 2027.

Mr Starmer added: "We must change our national security posture, because a generational challenge requires a generational response. That will demand some extremely difficult and painful choices."

"And through those choices, as hard as they are, we must also seek unity, a whole society effort that will reach into the lives, industries and the homes of the British people."



HAVING A SLASH: PM breaks news in Commons yesterday



Jailed MP told to quit Commons

DISGRACED Cheshire MP Mike Amesbury is facing calls to quit the House of Commons after being jailed for 10 weeks for repeatedly punching a man in the street.

The Runcorn and Helsby MP (*above*), who has been sitting as an Independent since he was axed by Labour following October's fracas, admitted assault and was sentenced on Monday.

A spokesperson for Labour said: "Local residents deserved better and we look forward to them getting the representation they deserve in the future with a new Labour MP."

Conservative party co-chairman Nigel Huddleston called on Amesbury to "do the right thing and resign", adding constituents "deserve an MP who is able to stand up for them in Parliament".

Reform UK chairman Zia Yusuf also called on the 55-year-old MP to quit immediately, adding: "The great people of Runcorn deserve far better than waiting six weeks for a recall petition to take place."

Ed Miliband spouts more shite as fuel bills hiked AGAIN

F**K OFF, BEAKER!

ENERGY bills for a typical UK household will rise by more than £100-a-year in April under regulator Ofgem's new cap.

This is a higher than expected increase, adding further pressure and misery on people's finances.

Brits have no doubt as to who is to blame – green-crazed Energy Secretary Ed Miliband, Ed – nicknamed "Beaker" after the catastrophe-prone lab assistant on *The Muppet Show* – took to social media after the price hike was announced to insist that the way forward was MORE unreliable energy

production such as from wind or solar.

And Britain's reaction? F**K OFF, BEAKER!

The 6.4% increase means a household using a typical amount of gas and electricity will see their annual bill rise by £111-a-year – or £9.25 a month – taking the total bill to £1,849-a-year.

Ofgem said billpayers should consider switching to a fixed tariff, although there are predictions of prices falling again in July.

Analysts had forecast a 5%

rise in prices in April, before Ofgem made an announcement yesterday. The higher than expected jump means bills in April will be £159-a-year more than they were in April 2024.

The energy bill rises will hit people's finances at the same time as water and Council Tax increases.

Standing charges – which are fixed fees to connect to a gas and electricity supply and vary by region – are also going up again for gas but dropping for electricity, with some customers in London and in North Wales and Merseyside seeing an overall increase of up to £20-a-year.

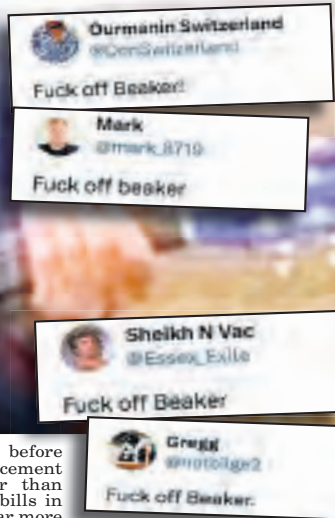
Jonathan Brearley, Ofgem's

chief executive, said that prices remained a huge challenge for many people and accepted that another increase was "unwelcome".

Under-fire Miliband said in a video posted to Twitter: "This is worrying news for many families. The way to deliver energy security, and bring down bills for good, is to deliver our mission to make Britain a clean energy superpower with homegrown clean power that we control."



MUPPETS: Beaker (left) and Energy Sec Ed and (below) public's reaction



SNP U-turn on victim ID

BUNGLING SNP ministers have admitted that people who left floral tributes to child murder victims faced being criminalised under plans to keep the victims' identities secret.

The Scottish Government has dropped proposals which would have banned the media from naming children who had been murdered, which Scotland's most senior judge warned would "impinge on freedom of expression".

The SNP had put forward a consultation on the ban, which it said had been drawn up in response to concerns from bereaved families about press and social media intrusion into their grief.

Journalists could have faced jail if they published information which led to the identification of kids who had been murdered.

COPS GET NEW PHONE-THEFT POWERS



POLICE will be able to break into the homes of mobile phone thieves without a warrant if the victim has tracked down their device, under new Government plans.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper (*left*) has introduced legislation to give officers enhanced powers against theft of phones, including no longer needing a warrant to search properties where stolen items have been

electronically geolocated.

She also said police will have greater powers to seize "nightmare" off-road bikes which plague parks, football pitches and golf courses.

Cops will be able to take them from offenders straight away, rather than having to provide repeated warnings.

The new powers will also cover dangerous e-scooters on pavements.

The changes are part of

the Crime and Policing Bill, introduced in Parliament yesterday.

Ms Cooper said: "For the last few years, our towns and cities have seen street theft shoot up, as organised gangs have been targeting mobile phones."

"We are determined to give the police the powers they need to move fast to crack down on these crimes that are blighting our communities."

TODAY'S WEATHER

TODAY gets off to a bright start for many, but turning cloudier as rain moves in from the west to soak most areas by the afternoon.

Staying mild.

Temperatures of 9C in London, 8C in Cardiff, 6C in Manchester, 7C in Belfast and 5C in Edinburgh.

Thursday will be mild again, as most parts of the

THREE-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRI	SAT	SUN
UK see a mix of sunshine and showers throughout the day.	Temperatures of 8C in London, 8C in Cardiff, 8C in Manchester, 7C in Belfast and 7C in Edinburgh.	OUTLOOK: Drier.

MIDWEEK
Sport
ALWAYS HOME
OF TOPLESS
BABES

Robyn Alexandra
326, from Manchester



Topless protest against far-right German party



HEIL TITLER!



POLI-TITS:
Alice Weidel
(above) and
protestor

A TOPLESS feminist protested against the hard-right Alternative for Germany party as the polls opened in a high-stakes German election on Sunday.

The half-naked activist from the women's rights group FEMEN appeared in front of the German embassy in Kyiv.

She sported a moustache and styled her hair to look like fascist leader Adolf Hitler (right), while wearing traditional German Lederhosen with a red Nazi band painted on her arm.

The words 'Heil Weidel' and 'Weidel Putin slut' were written on her chest and back – in reference to the AfD's leader Alice Weidel.



By JO ALLEN

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The German election was eventually won by Friedrich Merz's conservative CDU party with 28.6% of the vote.

Alternative for Germany (AfD) came second – sweeping the board in the former East Germany – while the Social Democrats (SPD) came third, followed by the Greens.

Two smaller parties which came close to reaching the 5% threshold have failed to get into parliament.

Because there are only five parties in parliament that gives Merz a better chance of forming a coalition with – most likely – the SPDs.

The mainstream parties refuse to deal with AfD – seen as far-right pariahs.



Holidays on Mars out of this world

MARS would once have been a prime holiday spot, with sun-soaked sandy beaches and gentle, lapping waves, scientists have found.

Experts believe an ancient northern ocean, dubbed The Gulf of Mars, covered nearly half the planet four billion years ago and was surrounded by sweeping shorelines similar to those on Earth.

It comes after ground-penetrating radar data from China's Zhurong Mars rover picked up thick layers of sand sloping upwards from the former seabed at a 15-degree angle – nearly identical to the slope of beach deposits on Earth.

"We found evidence for wind, waves, no shortage of sand – a proper, vacation-style beach," said Dr Benjamin Cardenas, study author and assistant professor of geology at Penn State University in the US.

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Screw admits nude lag pics

A FORMER prison guard admitted taking naked photos of female inmates in changing rooms at Olmsted County Jail in Rochester, Minnesota.

Matthew Adamson, 46, pleaded guilty to four counts of interference with privacy.

Adamson had charges of public officer misconduct, possession of pornographic works and solicitation through electronic communication dismissed, as part of a plea deal.

Midweek Sport

AT THE SCREEN ACTORS' GUILD

NEED YOUR GONGS POLISHING, GIRLS?

By JENNIFER SMALLBONE

news@sundaysport.co.uk

CONCLAVE was the big winner at the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards on Sunday, leaving the Oscars race too close to call.

The impeccably-timed Pope selection drama won the top prize – best ensemble cast – continuing its momentum after taking best film at last week's Baftas.

Other winners included Demi Moore and Timothée Chalamet, both of whom head into Sunday's Academy Awards with their chances of winning boosted.

British actor Ralph Fiennes accepted *Conclave's* prize, thanking director Edward Berger for his "perception, insight and care".

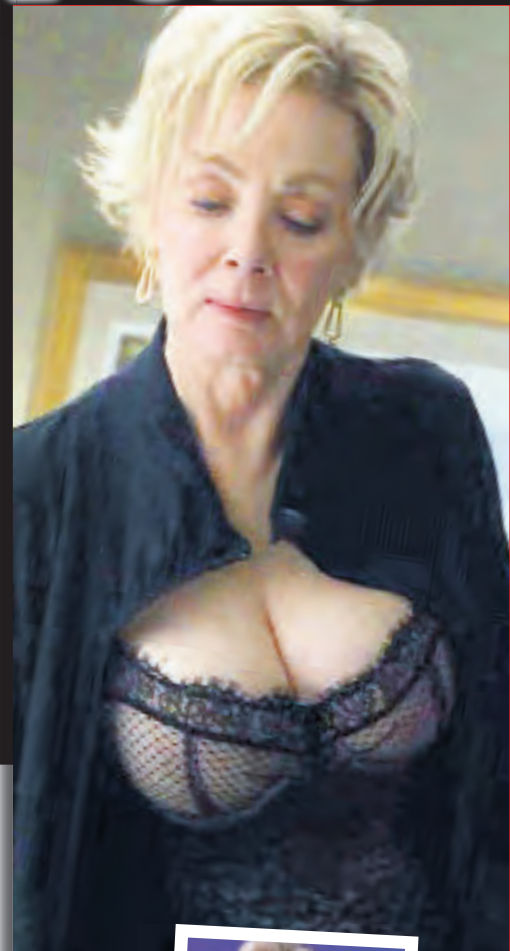
Victory

Earlier in the ceremony, his co-star Isabella Rossellini said the film's cast "want to wish Pope Francis a quick recovery" after he was diagnosed with pneumonia.

The SAG winners are voted for by fellow actors.

Conclave, which focuses on a group of gossipy and scheming cardinals in Rome, failed to win any other awards, but its victory in the top category leaves it in a strong position ahead of the Oscars on March 2.

While there are not many busty moments in *Conclave*, some of the other winners were a bit more spicy...



OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A FEMALE ACTOR IN A COMEDY SERIES
WINNER: JEAN SMART (HACKS)



SAG LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
RECIPIENT: JANE FONDA



OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY A FEMALE ACTOR IN A DRAMA SERIES
WINNER: ANNA SAWEI (SHOGUN)



AWARDS

**OUTSTANDING
PERFORMANCE
BY A FEMALE
ACTOR IN A
LEADING ROLE
WINNER: DEMI
MOORE (THE
SUBSTANCE)**



'Di would want prince rift healed'

JAMES Hewitt has claimed his former lover Princess Diana 'would be concerned' about the spat between her sons Princes William and Harry.

The former cavalry officer said in a rare TV interview that the late Princess of Wales, who died in Paris in 1997, would have done 'her best to try and get them together'.

He was asked on ITV's *Good Morning Britain* by host Richard Madeley whether Di would have been able to 'make a rapprochement possible' between her sons.

The 66-year-old said: "I think any mother would be worried and concerned about such a rift, as you put it, and she'd do her best to try and get them together."

Diana had a five-year affair with Mr Hewitt between 1986 and 1991, with the Princess publicly confessing to the relationship during her BBC Panorama interview in 1995.

Diana married then-Prince Charles in 1981, separated in 1992 and divorced in 1996.

Mr Hewitt was appearing on the ITV show this morning primarily to talk about his involvement in Operation Safedrop, delivering humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Spider bites allergic pilot in mid-air

A PILOT with a severe allergy to spiders was bitten mid-flight by a stowaway TARANTULA.

The pilot was operating an Iberia Airbus A320 flying from Düsseldorf, Germany, to the Spanish capital, Madrid, when he suffered a severe allergic reaction from the hairy arachnid.

The pilot was immediately treated with Urbasón, a corticosteroid with anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive properties, which was in the flight's first aid kit.

Despite the surprise attack, the flight safely landed in the Spanish capital and passengers got off safely.

The plane was held while specialist teams at Madrid Airport fumigated the aircraft to either flush out or kill the eight-legged beastie.

Investigators believe the tarantula entered the plane via luggage on an earlier flight between Madrid and Casablanca, a city in Morocco.

Iberia Airlines confirmed that the pilot is doing fine and has not suffered any lasting health effects.

Shop girl, 23, filmed vile acts

'SHE'S PISSED ALL OVER THE WALNUTS'



By ANNE COATES

neil@sundaysport.co.uk

A 23-YEAR-OLD shop worker was arrested after police found footage of her PISSING on food products at the store where she worked.

What's more, cops believe she'd been filming the filthy veggie-based watersports vids for FOUR YEARS!

Kelli Tedford allegedly tainted a slew of products at Monadnock Food Co-op in New Hampshire with her urine — costing the grocery store roughly £1,000 for the ruined stock and cleaning expenses, the Keene Police Department said.

The grocery store also had to issue a recall for its organic quinoa, cornmeal, polenta, coconut shreds, and raw walnuts after Tedford had apparently relieved herself on the products.

On seeing one of the vids, a co-worker at the store exclaimed: "She's pissing on the walnuts!"

It wasn't Tedford's first time peeing in places she shouldn't. If anything, it was a hobby for the young grocery store employee.

Police recovered multiple videos Tedford herself posted online showing her peeing on produce, surfaces, and other objects. The oldest videos date back to 2021.



NUTS ABOUT PEEING : Tedford

After reviewing the videos, police surmised that the serial public urinator likely tormented other outlets as well as grocery store with her piddling delinquency.

Tedford was released on bail and is set to appear in court on April 7.

Police have launched an investigation with additional criminal charges possible in the future.

So far, she has only been charged with criminal mischief.

NHS ENGLAND BOSS TO STEP DOWN FROM ROLE



QUITTING:
Pritchard

THE under-fire boss of the NHS in England is to quit.

Chief executive Amanda Pritchard will leave her role at the end of March.

Ms Pritchard — who has come in for criticism from MPs in recent weeks — said it had been "an enormous privilege to lead the NHS in England through what has undoubtedly been the most difficult period in its history".

NHS England said that, having discussed matters with Health Secretary Wes

Streeting in recent months — and now that the NHS has "turned a corner on recovery from the pandemic" — Ms Pritchard had "decided now is the right time to stand down".

She said: "The NHS is full of extraordinary people, who do extraordinary things. I am confident they will continue to achieve incredible things for patients now, and into the future."

Sir James Mackey will be taking over as interim NHS chief executive.

**OUTSTANDING
PERFORMANCE
BY A FEMALE
ACTOR IN A
TELEVISION
MOVIE OR
LIMITED SERIES
WINNER:
JESSICA
GUNNING
(BABY
REINDEER)**



Emily Jane
32D, from Cardiff

THIRTEENTH Sport
ALWAYS HOME
OF TOPLESS
BABES



Rihanna: it's sh*t being 37

RIHANNA has spoken candidly about ageing, after celebrating her 37th birthday, saying "getting old is shit but it's also a blessing".

The mum-of-two, who is dating ASAP Rocky, says she now feels wiser, less materialistic and more mindful of being in the moment.

The *Umbrella* singer added: "My legacy is right now – that's all I have the most control over. There's things I have no control over."

"My legacy is what I do with my time at this moment. How am I present with the people around me? How am I grateful? How am I making this a happy moment? How am I making a memory?"

The *Butch Better Have My Money* star, who's worth \$1.4bn, added: "I'm even in the space of not even spending my money on things, but I'll spend on an experience."

"That's something no one can take from me. Somebody could rob me right now of everything I have but they will never take a memory, an experience, a feeling, a scent that reminded me of that moment. There's just things that mean more when you grow up."

'Woke' EU guide ban on 'man'

THE European Union has banned common words and phrases that include "man" in the latest version of its English style guide.

Politicians, officials and translators have been warned not to use words such as "tradesman" and "man-made" as they are not inclusive, in official guidance from the European Commission – the EU's executive body.

The new version of the guide also takes aim at the phrase "man in the street", saying "the average person" should be used instead.

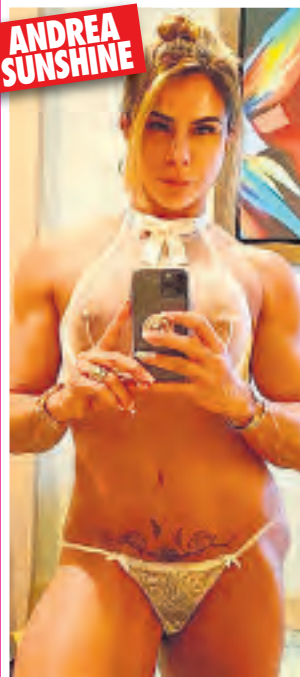
"Wherever possible, use alternatives for terms containing 'man' to mean people of all genders," it explains.

However, the guide has been ridiculed by critics. Lord Young, the founder of the Free Speech Union, said: "This sort of woke nonsense now feels completely outdated."

"The European Commission clearly hasn't got the memo."

Alka Sehgal Cuthbert, of campaign group Don't Divide Us, added: "Ordinary people need the freedom to speak freely in the language which they, and previous generations, have grown up with."

**ANDREA
SUNSHINE**



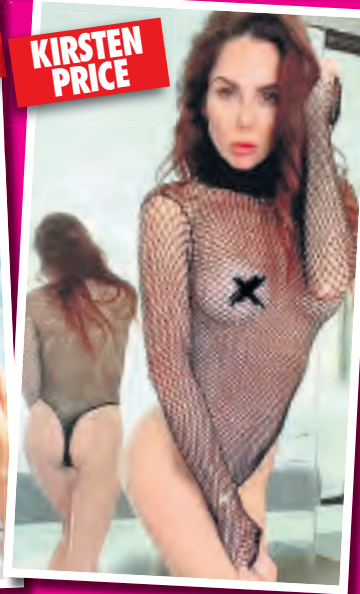
**ALEXIS
TEXAS**



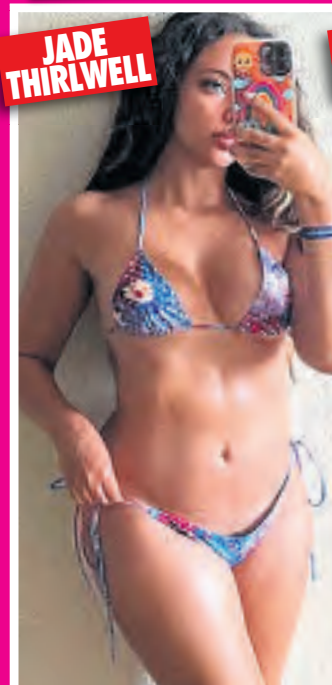
**VANESSA
ATAIDES**



**KIRSTEN
PRICE**



**JADE
THIRLWELL**



**ELLIE JEAN
COFFEY**



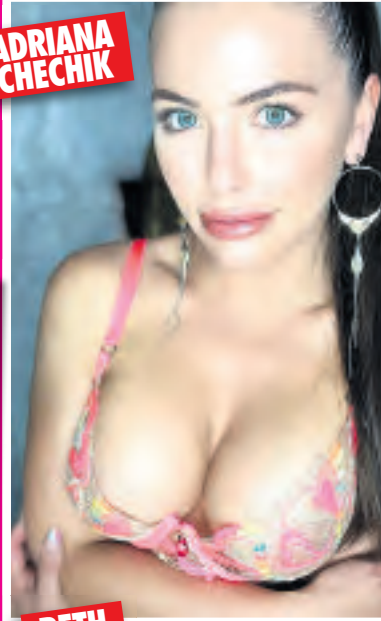
THE BUST tweets OF THE DAY!

DON'T you just love 'em! Celeb babes just adore flashing their bits on social media – and here's a selection of the hottest ones this week...

JENNA STARR



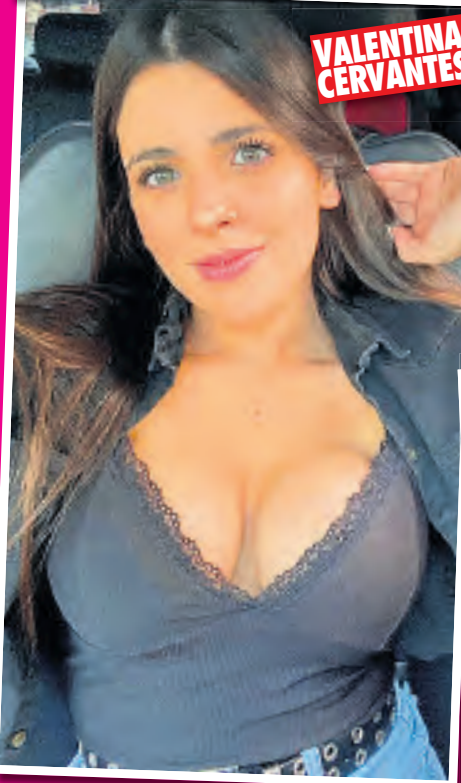
ADRIANA CHECHIK



BETH FIIT



VALENTINA CERVANTES



LAURA LUX



LIFE FOR KILLER WHO BARBEQUED HER OWN MUM

THE FACE OF EVIL: Candace tried to dispose of her mum on a barbecue



AN EVILDOER who killed, chopped up and then **COOKED** her own **MUM** on a barbecue will spend the rest of her life in prison.

Candace Craig, 46, murdered and dismembered her 71-year-old mum Margaret Craig on May 23, 2023, at home near Hyattsville, Maryland — apparently over a credit card dispute.

She also tried burning her remains on a BBQ with help from her daughter, Salia Hardy, who was charged and pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact to murder.

The pair also cooked up some chicken on the grill to try and cover up the smell of Margaret Craig's burning flesh, according to prosecutors. Judge Karen Mason described Craig's actions as "something so unimaginable" while sentencing her to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Attorney Shauna Coleman said: "This happens in movies and books, not in real life. 'The fact that she would do this to her own children ... her own mother, is beyond the realm of words.'"

Coleman refused to

By **HARPER HAYES**
news@sundaysport.co.uk

share the gory details out of respect for the victim.

Last October, Hardy testified against her mother as part of her plea agreement.

Hardy claimed that she heard her grandmother scream and her mother told her something had fallen in the basement and not to go in her grandmother's room.

The following day, when she was home alone, she went into the room and discovered her

grandmother's body in a bin with a bin bag over her head.

Craig said they had to get rid of the DNA by "using acid, burning the body or chopping it up," Hardy testified.

Days later, with grilling supplies bought at Home Depot, Craig started to burn her mother's remains on the grill, but instead started a fire that prompted neighbors to arrive to help extinguish the flames and put out a call to the fire department, Hardy testified.

The body was not discovered until later.

Tyre-some green mob target EVs

GREEN protestors drilled holes in hundreds of SUV tyres in an attack on "fossil fuel death machines" – not realising they were damaging "good" electric vehicles.

Members of Sabotage Oil for Survival targeted the Land Rover Truro dealership in the village of Scorrier, near Redruth, while other campaigners vandalised cars across Bristol and Exeter.

The group, who are based in Cornwall, posted on social media, boasting they had drilled the tyres of 100 Land Rover SUVs.

But after sharing the video on Twitter, Vertu Land Rover Truro's Head of Business, Wayne McNally, confirmed the group's error, saying: "You've drilled through tyres on fully electric cars!"

Devon and Cornwall Police is investigating the incidents.

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CALL ME NOW!
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It's National T

ONCE UPON A TIME...

By **SUZIE SHELTON**
news@sundayssport.co.uk

ARE you all sitting comfortably?

Then I'll begin... Today is National Tell a Fairy Story Day.

Which is an opportunity to dig out and enjoy your favourite childhood tale.

A fairy tale is a short story that typically features fantasy characters and far-fetched ideas.

A bit like politics, really. Everyone likes fairy stories – and some ladies even like dressing up as their favourite characters, while letting their busters hang out.

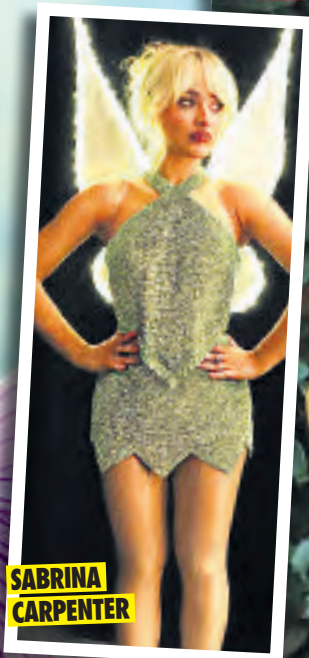
And they all lived BAPPILY ever after...



NICKI MINAJ

RILEY STEELE

ell a Fairy Story Day



**SABRINA
CARPENTER**



Sex attacked Denise faced acting snub

ACTRESS Denise Richards says she was sexually harassed early in her career, and didn't speak out at the time as "I was told I would be blacklisted".

The 54-year-old star (above) said: "I felt so vulnerable, this was the career I wanted to do... to be told that you're never going to work in an industry that you are passionate about is a hard thing."

Her acting career began in the early 1990s, when she got her big breaks in films *Starship Troopers*, *Wild Things* and Bond flick *The World Is Not Enough*.

She added: "I am glad that women are able to have more of a voice and be more protected."

"If that happened at this age, I would handle it differently, but I was so young and an unknown and just starting out."

After starring on two seasons of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*, Richards is returning to reality TV with her own Bravo show, *Denise Richards & Her Wild Things*.

The upcoming series also features her hubby, Aaron Phypers, and her three daughters, Sami, 20, Lola, 19, and Eloise, 13.

Denise said: "I look at my daughters doing our show and being such strong women... I'm so proud they say what's on their mind."

Council ban naturism at nude beach

A PARISH council has sparked a row after trying to ban naked sunbathing at a naturist beach.

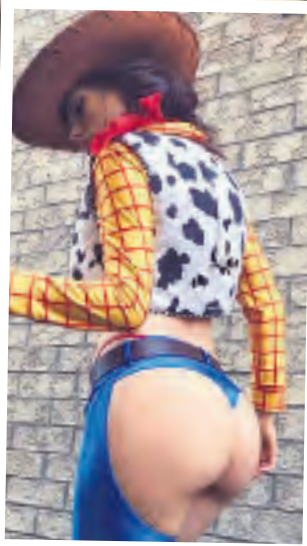
Corton Beach, near Lowestoft, Suffolk, is at the centre of a dispute after a banning-order sign went up earlier this month.

Authorities accused nudists of committing "lewd acts" and warned that concerned locals and guests at a nearby holiday park had become increasingly disturbed.

The sign, which appeared on the stretch of shore, reads: "Warning - Corton beach is not a naturist beach. Lewd behaviour will not be tolerated and may be recorded by CCTV and reported to the police."

"Causing an offence to others is a criminal offence and all cases will be reported for prosecution."

It has caused concern among the local nudist community, as Corton Beach was designated a naturist beach back in the 1970s.



#HOT'N' HORNY

CRACKING Kyla Cole admits she's like a wild animal in bed – and needs a strong man who can tame her.

The horny model said she's easy to please on a date, and will jump into bed after just a couple of drinks.

And the 36D scorcher also admitted that once she's between the sheets there's no telling what might happen!

Kyla, from Lambeth in south London, wasted no time in stripping off for these snaps while revealing her sexy secrets.

She said: "I'm a tiger – I'm definitely a bit of a wild one."

"Let's just say I know what I'm doing and I've never had any complaints."

"My ideal date is having just a few drinks, and spending time chatting and getting to know each other."

"A guy has to be a good kisser, and I like him to have good teeth too."

"Oh, and a big hard dick!"



**MIDWEEK
Sport**
ALWAYS HOME
OF TOPLESS
BABES



Teacher denies romps with a 17-year-old...

MISS 'SHAGGED TEEN LAD FIVE TIMES'

BAILED:
Zoe
Hodges

By SHEILA BRYSON
news@sundaysport.co.uk

A TEACHER has denied having shagged one of her students FIVE times.

Zoe Hodges, 30, entered her pleas in Newcastle District Court, New South Wales, Australia.

Judge Tim Gartelmann arraigned Ms Hodges, asking for her pleas.

As five counts of having sexual intercourse with a 17-year-old under her special care were read out by the judge, Ms Hodges said "not guilty" each time.

The alleged offending happened in the suburb of Lower Hunter in July and August 2023.

Ms Hodges, a teacher at Francis Greenway High in Beresfield, has been on strict conditional bail since being charged in December 2023.

Those conditions remain in place and include an order that she must live with her parents at their home.

In addition, she must not be with or in contact with any student or former student, and must stay out of the Hunter Valley suburb where she taught.

There is also a provision for witnesses.

The bail condition prohibits her from going near, or trying to go near, or contact any civilian prosecution witness except through a legal representative.

Accompanied

Ms Hodges is also prevented from being in the company of any male child under the age of 18 unless accompanied by another adult person.

Judge Gartelmann said he was "conscious the trial is a priority as the complainant will be giving evidence and evidence is not going to be recorded".

Despite that, it will be more than a year before trial, with seven days set aside in April next year.

Currys help you come by train

ELECTRICAL giant Currys has launched a new "wellness" technology range of sexy devices, including one it suggests using on the commute.

The company best known for flogging TVs, PCs and fridges is now aiming to bring thrills to the bedroom - and even to work journeys - with a range of toys including massage wands and pleasure stimulators.

A Currys spokesman said: "Introducing a sexual wellness range felt like a natural step for us."

And they said of one gadget, a remote-controlled love egg: "Whether it's adding a spark to your bedroom or spicing up your daily commute, its body-safe silicone is so comfy."

SEXY KATH: I'M PRUDE AT HOME

KATHERINE Ryan admitted she felt "uneasy" after her husband Bobby Kootstra told their marriage coach "when they last had sex".

The comedian, 41, said she's more "prudish about sex" than she thought, and her hubby has become more public about their private life on their reality show, *At Home With Katherine Ryan*.

She said: "We discuss contentious issues, such as Bobby and Violet getting along or us having a fourth baby. We come from a small town where everybody knows your business, so becoming a bit more public was fine with Bobby."

"I've learnt I'm a lot more prudish about sex than I thought. When I talk about explicit subjects on stage, I hide behind a punchline."

"But when Bobby told a marriage coach on the show when we'd last had sex, that made me feel uneasy."

While Katherine (left) revealed Bobby needs "more training" in the bedroom, she still boasted: "Last year I said we have sex twice a month - we do it five times now!"



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Lag on death row goes out with a bang

DEATH row prisoner Brad Sigmon, who is condemned to be executed on March 7, has chosen to die by a firing squad.

He will be the first US inmate shot to death in an execution in 15 years.

Sigmon, 67 (above), became the first South Carolina inmate to choose the state's new firing squad over lethal injection or the electric chair.

Only three inmates in the US have been executed by firing squad since 1976.

All were in Utah, with the last one taking place in 2010.

Sigmon will be strapped to a chair and have a hood placed over his head and a target over his heart in the death chamber.

Three volunteers will fire at him through a small opening from around 15ft away.

Sigmon was convicted in the 2001 baseball bat killings of his ex's parents at their home in Greenville County.

CUSTOMS & EGGCISE

THE high cost of eggs in the US, caused by a bird flu epidemic, has led to a surge in them being smuggled across the border from Mexico – up immigrants' arses.

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As Lily Allen considers having arse operation...

BOTTOMS ARE TOPS!

JULIA ROSE

MIDWEEK Sport 5-PAGE SPECIAL

BUM LIFT: Singer Lily is weighing up operation on buttocks

By JAYNE FERGUSON news@sundaysport.co.uk

PERT pop star Lily Allen says she is considering having surgery to give her bum a boost.

And the singer is thinking of having a controversial procedure.

Lily, 39, said: "I think I might get a BBL (Brazilian Butt Lift). You can get a thigh lift-slash-BBL. It doesn't have to be, you know, massive – I have been doing some research into it."

Sagging

And the chart-topper said she'd prefer to have a procedure done before the sagging starts.

She explained: "Everyone will be like, 'Didn't she have a really saggy arse a couple of weeks ago, and now she hasn't'. 'Rather than, 'Huh, she's really been doing some stuff in the gym.'"

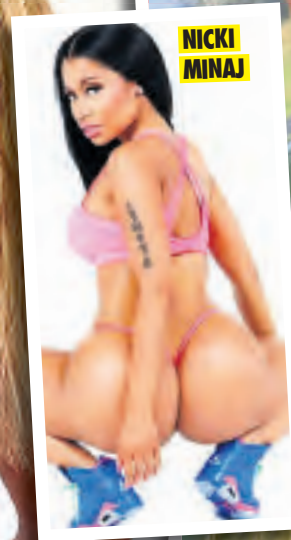
Well, if Lily wants some inspiration for the ideal arse shape – here are FIVE pages of booty-ful bums to choose from...



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32G, FROM
SYDNEY,
AUSTRALIA



CHINTIA FLOWERS
30DD, FROM
BUDAPEST



NICKI MINAJ



CHLOE AYLING
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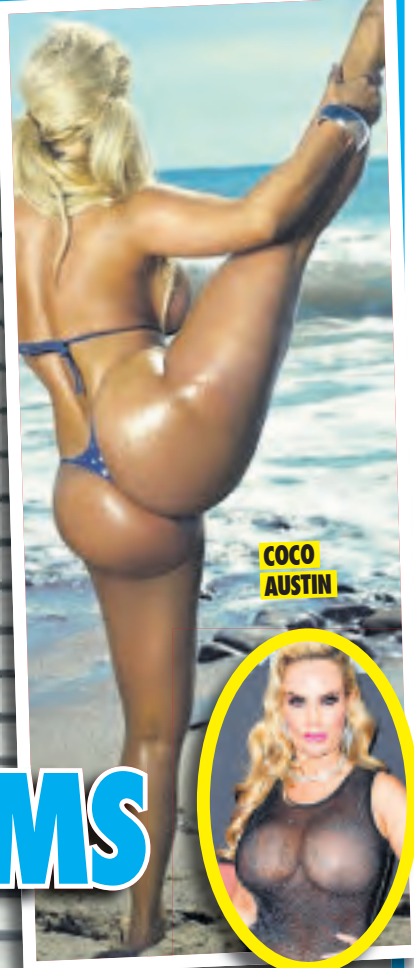
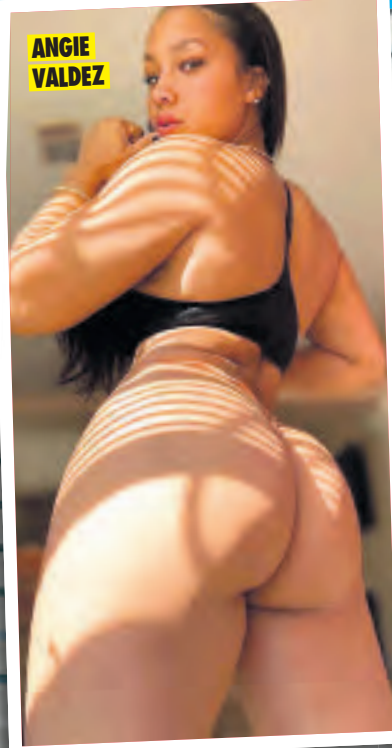
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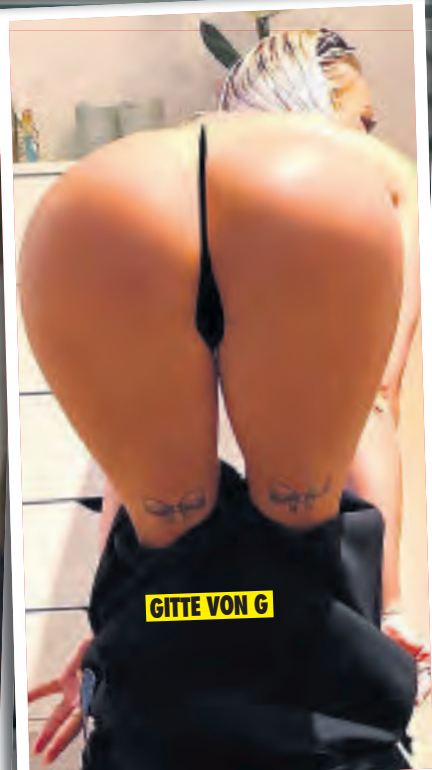
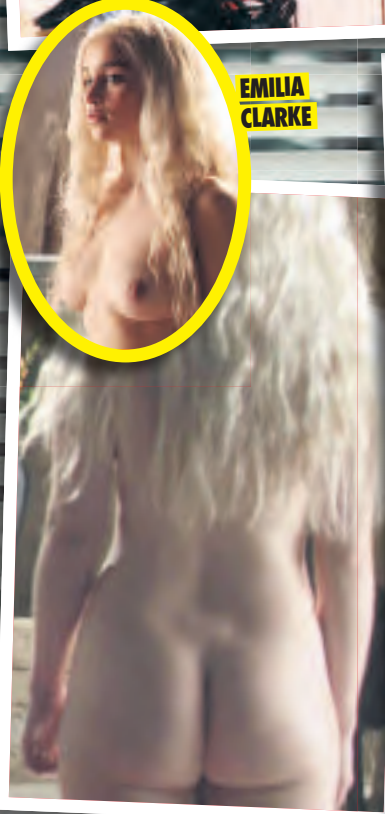
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MIDWEEK Sport
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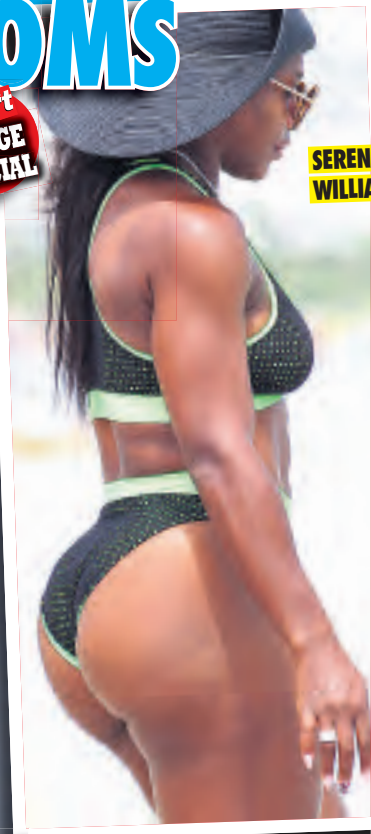
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#MY SEX FANTASY

'I see my fella giving it to her doggy style'



...WITH ANNISA KATE, 36D, FROM BRISTOL

MY wildest sex fantasy is to go swinging with my boyfriend.

I got the idea while watching an episode of Yank teen drama *The O.C.* where two married characters go to a swingers' party.

In my fantasy, my fella tells me to get dressed-up and that he's taking me out. But he won't tell me where we're going.

He drives me to a house I've never seen before, and there are a bunch of couples there – all strangers.

My boyfriend walks in and casually drops his watch into a bowl on the coffee table (the same way it happened in *The O.C.*).

The couple in the show chicken out, but me and my fella don't.

In my fantasy I have different men approach me, and one very hot guy comes up to me as I leave the bathroom and kisses me, stroking my nipples.

It's naughty because it's breaking the rules!

Then the same hot guy pulls out my man's watch from the bowl – which means he gets to f**k me.

I go off to a bedroom with him and he's hard and horny and devours me and gives me a good dicking.

I can hear my boyfriend close to climaxing in the room opposite and look over and the door is ajar.

I see him giving it to another woman, hard doggy style, and it makes me cum all over the place...



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Shrinks free killer who ate victim's brain

A CANNIBAL who ate his victim's brain and eyeball will be released – after shrinks gave him the all-clear.

Tyree Smith (*above*) was ordered to be confined to Whiting Forensic Hospital, Connecticut, for 60 years in 2013 in connection with the killing of Angel Gonzalez.

His victim's mutilated body was found in a vacant apartment in Bridgeport in January 2012, a month after he was hacked to death.

Smith's cousin had testified he told her he ate part of Gonzalez's brain and an eyeball while drinking sake.

During a hearing before the state's Psychiatric Security Review Board, Gonzalez's sister-in-law, Talitha Frazier, said she was concerned Smith was now hiding his mental illness.

Meanwhile, a group of Republican lawmakers called the decision "mind-boggling" in a statement, adding: "This person should never be let out."

However, the board granted the release after a psychiatrist said Smith's schizophrenia and alcohol and drug disorders were in full remission.

'Vape worse than ciggie' doctor says

VAPING may be more dangerous to the body than cigarettes – putting long-term users at risk of dementia, heart disease and organ failure.

Inhaling nicotine vapour from e-cigarettes has been described by the NHS as "substantially less harmful than smoking".

But Dr Maxime Boidin, leader of the world's first controlled study into vaping's long-term effects at Manchester Metropolitan University, believes the health threat to vapers is a lot worse.

He said: "Smokers tend to go outside and smoke, and once a cigarette is finished they have to light up another to keep going. But with vapes, you just keep going and it's much harder to know how many puffs you've had."

"It's much easier to vape continuously as you can do it in places where smoking might be less acceptable."

He added: "What we have found is the dangers for someone who keeps vaping are no different from smokers."

"You see a lot more people vaping these days as they don't think it's too bad. Many will be horrified to know the truth."

MANIAC STALKER RELEASED PYTHON TO EAT VICTIM'S DAUGHTER

Nut also blew up woman's house



BANGED UP: Glosser

A MAN who set off a homemade bomb at the home of a woman he'd stalked – after releasing a python in the residence, to eat her daughter – has been jailed for 20 years.

Stephen Glosser, 38, planted an explosive device that blew up part of the woman's home in Richmond Hill, Georgia, in January 2023. It was part of plot to have her killed and her daughter eaten by the snake, the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia said.

The victim – who Glosser previously met on a dating app but did not have a relationship with – was inside the home with her daughter during the attack.

"The level of malevolent violence in this case is astounding, and it's truly fortunate that there were no deaths as a result of this horrific crime," Acting US Attorney Tara Lyons said in a statement.

"This successful prosecution is a credit to the outstanding investigative work of the ATF and our state and local law enforcement partners."

Prosecutors said Glosser and another man, Caleb Kinsey, came up with a plan meant to "kill, intimidate, harass and injure" the victim.

It included a series of sick acts including shooting arrows into the woman's front door,

By **BRAD CHADWICK**
news@sundaysport.co.uk

releasing a large python into the home to eat her daughter, posting dog poo and dead rats to the house, scalping her and bombing her home.

The pair located the victim's home using internet searches before mapping out a path to her residence, and then built an explosive device from parts they bought online.

Glosser also hired a cleaning service to wipe away any traces of bomb residue from his home after the explosion – which damaged the victim's home.

Glosser pleaded guilty in January to stalking and use of an explosive.

He is also required to pay £400,000 in compo to the two victims.

Kinsey was taken into custody in Louisiana and is awaiting prosecution in Georgia.

Maya gets a facial!



MAYA Jama shows the secret to her flawless skin as she enjoys a pamper day after returning home from filming *Love Island: All Stars* in South Africa.

The presenter, 30, plugged the Shane Cooper Clinic in London where she had treatments.

She underwent a bespoke facial to "hydrate and enhance" her skin after spending six weeks in the sun.

A fan said: "I'd give her a facial any day of the week."

A "facial" to dirty people, is the act of unleashing your hot spunk onto a lady's face during a moment of romance.



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sylvia
BARRIE

SEXY Sylvia Barrie has been gripped by the BBC cop drama *The Gold* and binged the entire series on iPlayer.

The 32DD cracker, from Enfield in north London, said: "I know that every other show on the telly is a police drama these days, but this one's a bit different."

"If you've not seen it, the series is based on the police investigation into the infamous robbery at the Brinks-Mat depot near Heathrow back in 1983."

"I've read that there is some upset from members of the public that gangster Kenneth Noye was portrayed in it as a kind of Robin Hood figure, and a bit of a Del Boy."

"I can understand that – as his form suggests, he was a bad 'un."

"But Hugh Bonneville is very good as the lead detective in it."





JUSTIN DUNN'S ROOM 101



WHAT'S ANNOYING HIM THIS WEEK?

IF your 88-year-old wheelchair-bound grandad was in hospital with double pneumonia and asthma, he'd most likely be receiving what we politely call "palliative care".

Which is another way of saying "helping you die".

But in a true story of our times, it seems if you're an 88-year-old man in a dress it's a whole different story.

Sound familiar?

God really does move in mysterious ways.



Will Starmer's lawyerly ways impress Trump?

ON the grounds of being largely shit, Keir Starmer has been taking a lot of stick.

But this Thursday, he's going to be doing the one and only thing he has been undoubtably winning at in the nearly-eight months he's spent at least nominally in charge of this country.

Yes, he's flying somewhere else. Again.

"Somewhere else" this time around is Washington D.C., the capital of the good of US of A, of course.

And waiting to greet him, with the gaping, heaving, salivating maw of a rabid XL Bully, is President Donald J Trump.

Keir's mission, which he has entirely invented and chosen to accept, is to whip up his ludicrous bonce into the best bouffant it has ever been to impress the equally mad-haired POTUS.

Then the two will retire for one of those weird "talks" which take place while both are sat at uncomfortably angled armchairs with a mere 1,500 photographers and cameraman in the room watching them.

Credentials

Starmer's face will first grimace and then slowly turn from its usual wan, grey hue to a more deathly white as DJT's iron handshake crushes that of his clammy own.

The PM might inwardly take note of the size of teetotaller Donald's cheeseburger belly and wonder if that, er, trumps his own towering height of 5ft 7-and-a-half inches (a stat I'll never, ever tire of).

The "talks" will be about Ukraine, with Starmer wanting to impress upon the leader of the free world his credentials.

As a former director of public prosecutions, never mind being the son of a toolmaker – not that he ever mentions either, ever – Keir is very proud of his lawyerly ways even when absolutely no one else is.

Still, I can exclusively reveal how the conversation will go, with Starmer steaming in first with one of his



legendary Rumpole-style legal forays into the President's mindset.

"Mr Trump," he will say, as though in court once again, this time staring up at the Moors Murderers, before blowing his nose again.

"If I can refer you to page 1,903 of Bundle 7, marked 7-thru-10, and the specific paragraphs 10.9 (a) and 14 (b)?"

Mr Trump will nod, his chins fluttering ever so lightly in the breeze from the aircon put there to prevent him from melting.

Keir will plough on: "You will have been advised that under the strict parameters of international law and the solemnity of long-held treaties means that –"

"Karl? Is it?"

"If it pleases you to call me that, your Untouchable."

"Karl, I'm the leader of the free world. I have more nuclear bombs than anyone else on the planet, so even so-called mutually-assured destruction would mean I still win."

"Plus, I have the world's biggest navy, and air force, and though many people wince when I do it, I simply say what they're thinking but are too nervous to say out loud."

"And by the way, did you know that the entire United Kingdom could fit into my one state of Texas five times over and we'd still have some space left?"

"But, Mr Trump, your eminence, your Holiness, under sub-section 96 of the EU Sucker-UP Act (2024/5), we have to –"

"Threaten to bomb the shit out of them? I have. Now f**k off, Karl."

EMAIL ME: justin@sundaysport.co.uk
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Glamour legend is on **fanvue** and she's **SEXIER** than **EVER**

NAT'S BACK AND READY FOR YOU!

By JO ALLEN news@sundaysport.co.uk

SHE was one of the BIGGEST glamour modelling sensations of the 1980s and Nineties...

And now Natalie Jay is back with a BANG!

Aged 50, Natalie is bursting back onto the glamour scene after setting up her own Fanvue page.

She explained: "I thought, 'Why not?' and reading about Fanvue it seemed like the ideal platform for me to return to modelling."

Natalie hopes her page will be popular with her old fans and draw a new generation of admirers.

She explained: "There are probably 18 and 19-year-old lads out there whose dads used to look at my boobs in *Sunday Sport* back in the day."

"It's amazing to think I can still be modelling full-frontal."

UNCENSORED ON
fanvue

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www.fanvue.com/nataliejaybanus





Woke MP's gender-row budget doc

A WOKE MP faces a backlash after trying to introduce a budget recommendation that changes gender words including "mother" to "inseminated person" and "paternity" to "parentage".

Tony Evers (above), the Democrat governor of Wisconsin, advises several other gendered terms be changed.

References to "wife" or "husband" are changed to "spouse" in the proposal, and the word "father" is changed to "parent" while "mother" is swapped out for the phrase "parent who gave birth to the child".

The madcap rules were included in the state's budget, which was introduced by the state Senate's Joint Committee.

Wisconsin radio host Dan O'Donnell noted the language change in a post on Twitter, calling it "beyond parody".

And Senator Mike Lee commented on the post, writing simply: "Red flag!"

Sara Craig, the Republican Governors Association's executive director, said in a statement that Evers' "latest left-wing push" is "offensive to mothers". She added: "If Tony Evers can reduce motherhood to an 'inseminated person' then our society is lost."

Cannon and balls-up for smuggle pair

TWO men tried to use a cannon to blast illegal goods into a prison.

Jose Francisco Herrera Munoz, 18, and Angel Gonzales Gutierrez, 19, tried using the air cannon to fire £100,000 worth of tobacco and £60,000 in methamphetamine over a fence and into the Federal Correctional Complex in Pollock, Louisiana.

The cannon they were caught with – similar to those used to send T-shirts into crowds at big arenas – can propel send around 350ft.

The Grant Parish Sheriff's Office said deputies learned of the plans for the caper in an investigation.

Both suspects were arrested for attempting to introduce contraband into a penal institution and trying to distribute methamphetamine.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement also took part in the investigation.

Munoz, who came to the US illegally, was detained by the agency, and faces deportation.

Star of new BBC drama is stripped

DOPE GIRLS

JULIANNE

DOFFS

HER

TOP!

DOPE ON THE ROPES: Julianne as Kate in *Dope Girls*



By ANNE COATES news@sundaysport.co.uk

BBC drama *Dope Girls* appears to have put viewers on a downer.

The show had been hailed as the "next *Peaky Blinders*" by optimistic Beeb bosses ahead of airing, but now fans have declared they won't be tuning in again.

Set in London in the direct aftermath of WWI, the six-part series follows a "newly empowered generation of women who are loath to simply return to the kitchen" and instead utilise Soho's "expanding illicit underground clubland scene as their playground".

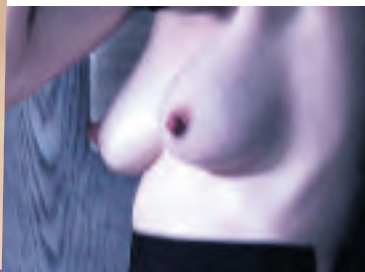
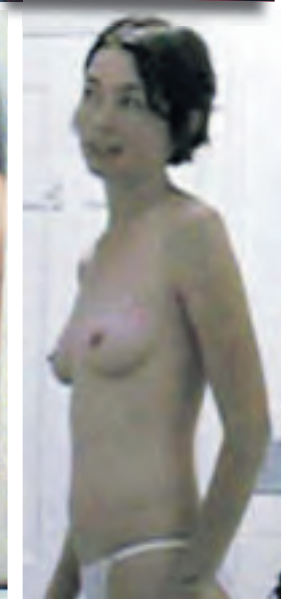
Post-war

In the first episode, we met a variety of women including main characters Billie, Violet, Kate and Evie as they navigate this post-war era.

Kate Galloway, played by Julianne Nicholson, is our leading lady – a single mother who establishes a nightclub and "embraces a life of criminal activities to be able to provide for her daughter".

One viewer commented: "It's rather bonkers and awful at the same time," while another said, "Safe to say I won't be watching any more of that" and a third called it "a load of drivel".

In the meantime, here's leading lady Julianne in the buff...



#POSTER BABE



penny LEE

**32E, from Worthing,
West Sussex**



MIDWEEK Sport
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BABES**





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THE WORLD FAMOUS AGONY Page

Dear Sam,

I HAD to laugh when I visited a pal of mine who's in the sex industry last month.

She said her previous client had been a bloke aged about 75, and though she tried for over an hour she failed to stiffen the eager old chap's limp old chap.

She claimed she'd tried wanking him with oil and even licked his balls, but without any success.

Then she did a striptease for him, talked absolute filth, let him sniff her panties and even sat on his face, but nothing she could do could get the old boy's penis to step up to the plate, as it were.

Frustrated and angry with himself, he apologised and said alcohol was probably to blame and that he had better get hold of some Viagra for his next visit to her.

When she asked him when he'd last had a drink he told her it was when his wife left him...in 1993!

CT, Berks

Sam says...

YOU'VE got to give the old chap full marks for trying.g.

Dear Sam,

THERE is a barmaid in my local who gives blowjobs for a tenner and will let anyone shag her for £50.

I'll be the first to admit it's not the most classy of establishments but I've been going there regularly for years, especially since this lovely, keen and hardworking brunette started behind the bar.

I've boned her five times in recent weeks. It's usually in the gents, and there is always a queue, but she gives excellent value and lets me take my time with her.

I love the way I can cup her massive tits as I back-scuttle her over one of the bogs. She has this lovely technique of reaching between her legs and giving my balls a squeeze, which seems to make me harder and come like an express train.

I'm 60, and have been divorced three times but would love to have her as my new wife.

She's 25, single and has got four kids.

Do you think I should ask for her hand in marriage?

GH, Hants

Sam says...

GO for it. If you don't ask, you don't get!

Missus is calling me out after one night stand

Dear Sam,

I WENT to a fantastic bash last week and ended up shagging a really tasty brunette who was wearing a see-through blouse, a leather mini-skirt and black stockings.

It seems she was he was an old college pal of the party's host and was visiting from London specially.

As I chatted to her it was all I could do to stop myself from staring at her enormous tits, which were braless beneath her top, but I'm sure she knew that.

I moved in close to her and she was immediately responsive, and when I suggested we go upstairs to see if we could find a quiet

bedroom, she was well up for it, discreetly giving my cock a squeeze through my jeans by way of confirmation.

Once we found a bed we stripped off and she went wild for my eight-incher, taking it in all of her lovely orifices.

It was strictly a one-night stand for both of us, because we've both got regular partners, and I don't plan to see her again.

The problem is I left my phone there and my missus wants to know where it is.

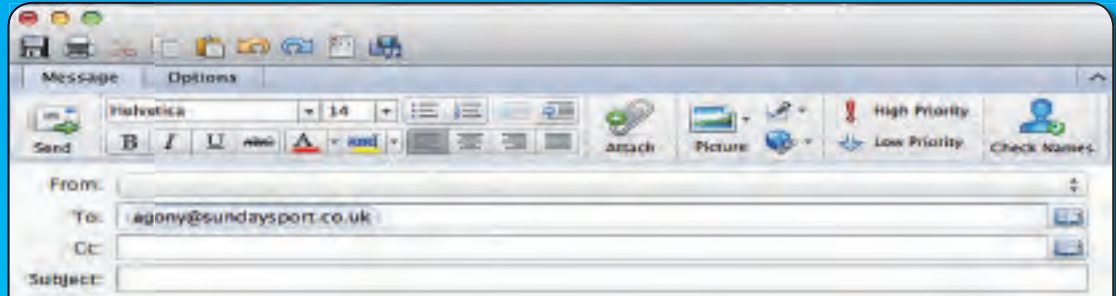
HR, Gwent

Sam says...

TELL her it got nicked!

AGONY IS BROUGHT TO YOU IN ASSOCIATION

WELCOME to the World famous Sport Agony page! No other newspaper's agony aunts can offer the level of advice – or experience – than our own Agony Angels! This week SAM TYE has been reading through your letters. And here's her advice for you...



Should I let my chums play with the missus?

Dear Sam,

THE other Sunday afternoon my mate invited me and the lads to watch the footie round at his house.

His missus kept us supplied with snacks and beers and as half-time approached she disappeared up to her bedroom.

When she came back to the living room she was wearing a black PVC French maid's outfit with a tiny skirt and a low-cut front showing off her cleavage – she was absolutely stunning. Her husband was apparently shocked and went as red as a beetroot at first but he soon joined in the fun.

As she bent down to pick up some empty beer cans he got behind her and lifted her skirt and pretended to shag her doggy style.

"Come on, then, why don't you give me a length," she said as she bent right over so that her massive tits fell out of the front of her dress.

To our shock and amazement he obeyed, unzipping his flies, pulling out his cock, easing down her frilly panties and sliding his erection easily into his clearly aroused missus.

As he pumped away you could see the thrill and lust on her face as she looked at each of us in turn with a really filthy come-on look in her eye.

So as her hubby carried on giving her one from behind I slid over and slipped my hand between her legs.

I stroked her hot, hard clit and at the same time started undoing my jeans.

Sucking

She was keen to help and soon had my stiffening prick out and in her warm, wet mouth, wanking me and sucking at the same time.

At first the other lads cheered us, but you see they too were keen to get involved and were rubbing at their own parts.

Soon there were hands all over her, groping her boobs and fingering her

dripping pussy after her hubby, having emptied his ballbag, settled back on the sofa satisfied and watched his wife get reamed.

She was wanking and sucking off my mates with total enthusiasm, and we all had a turn at shagging her till everyone, including her, had reached a climax. It was a damn sight more fun than the football!

My problem is, am I expected to return the favour, and invite the lads round to mine next time? I'm not sure my missus would be quite as accommodating!

BK, South Yorks

Sam says...

YOUR friend and his wife clearly planned the whole thing all along. You need to sound your wife out first, to see if she likes the idea of shagging other men. She might!

Dear Sam,

Does hubby want me or strippers?

I'VE recently split up with my partner of four years and since then I've been having the time of my life shagging her mother...as well as her younger sister.

The mother is a very young-looking woman and gives the best blowjob you could wish for.

She came round to see how I was feeling after the split and brought some wine.

She let her coat slip open and gave me a saucy grin, and the next thing she was on her knees sucking me off.

We then had sex three times and it was amazing. We've since met for sex regularly but two weeks ago my ex-girlfriend's sister came round and said she knew about me shagging her mum.

She said I'd have to shag her too to keep her quiet, so I soon had her bent over the sofa and was giving her a right good seeing-to.

She said she'd come round the next evening with two of her mates to watch some porn. She did and I shagged each of them – and at one point I had three moist pussies in my face.

All this is costing me a fortune in Viagra and besides, I think I want my girlfriend back.

What can I do?
FD, Essex

Sam says...

IT'S too late to turn back – enjoy it.

DO YOU HAVE A SEX PROBLEM?

email: agony@sundaysport.co.uk

sundaysport.co.uk

Mail: Agony, Sunday Sport, 860 Chester Rd, Stretford, Manchester M32 0QJ



MIDWEEK Sport
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GUESS what sexy Sam Tye got for a Valentine's gift... That's right, a new set of undies! But the thing is, she doesn't know who sent them to her... The 32E cracker, from Reading, said: "They came in the post with a lovely card, but I still don't recognise the handwriting on the card or envelope. "I literally have no idea who sent them - but I'm ever so thrilled. "Whoever sent them will find out just how thrilled I am when I discover who they are - and treat them to some very naughty fun..."

S
T



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Wants
Follow!
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watch it
dribble
out!!
0982 613 1972*

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BLOW THE BOSS	0983 919 0693
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PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 5. Skin irritation (4)
 - 7. Champion's opponent (10)
 - 8. Cause the death of (4)
 - 10. Counterpart (4)
 - 12. --- Stubbs, actress (3)
 - 13. Yeast (6)
 - 16. Any verse or piece of poetry (5)
 - 18. Weir (3)
 - 20. Roster (4)
 - 21. House type (4)
 - 22. High mountain (3)
 - 24. Winter sportsman (5)
 - 25. Painter (6)
 - 26. Intestine (3)
 - 27. Accept (4)
 - 29. Jolt (4)
 - 33. Feel or undergo (10)
 - 34. Compass point (4)

- DOWN**
- 1. Female person or animal (3)
 - 2. Gusted (4)
 - 3. Intend (4)
 - 4. Ovum (3)
 - 5. Irritate, vex (3)
 - 6. Punctuation mark (5)
 - 9. Rush (5)
 - 10. Deposit on the teeth (6)
 - 11. Stripling (3)
 - 13. Minimum (5)
 - 14. Urn (4)
 - 15. Come into view (6)
 - 17. Stop (4)
 - 19. Circumference (5)
 - 23. Mine (3)
 - 25. Entertain (5)
 - 27. Mountain lake (4)
 - 28. Retain (4)
 - 30. Favourite (3)
 - 31. Secret agent (3)
 - 32. Expert (3)

1. WHICH former Prime Minister caused chaos on *Good Morning Britain* after suddenly walking out of a live interview?
a) Rishi Sunak
b) Boris Johnson
c) Theresa May
d) Liz Truss

2. WHICH football team became the first English top-flight side in history to lose six home games in a row?
a) Southampton
b) Ipswich Town
c) Manchester City
d) Leicester City

3. WHICH pop star said accusing working-class young men of "white privilege" makes them feel disenfranchised – and sends them into the arms of Andrew Tate?
a) Ed Sheeran
b) Sam Smith
c) Liam Gallagher
d) Sam Fender

4. WHICH UK accent once thought to be the "least attractive" is now "one of the sexiest" – all thanks to TikTok?
a) West Midlands
b) Geordie
c) Liverpool
d) Glaswegian

5. WHICH member of the Royal family's Land Rover Defender 90 with its HRH number plate will be sold in auction next month?
a) Camilla
b) Andrew



SPORTDUKO



LET'S GET QUIZICAL!

- c) Charles
d) William

6. WHICH broadcaster was forced to apologise and pull a controversial Gaza documentary after it emerged the son of a Hamas leader featured prominently in it?
a) Netflix
b) Apple TV+
c) Amazon Prime Video
d) BBC

7. WHICH political party says it will reverse the farmers' tax introduced by Labour, if they get into government?
a) Green Party
b) Conservatives
c) Reform UK
d) Liberal Democrats

8. CHELSEA footballer Marc Cucurella says he

watches which Disney classic every day with his young family?
a) *The Lion King*
b) *Aladdin*
c) *Beauty and the Beast*
d) *Pocahontas*

9. RESIDENTS in posh Beaconsfield, Bucks, are up in arms after learning their old cinema building will reopen as a what?
a) Greggs
b) Ann Summers
c) Wetherspoons
d) Immigration centre

10. WHICH rock star's son has been admitted to a Malibu rehab for drug addiction, months after his marriage breakdown?
a) Eric Clapton
b) Paul McCartney
c) Ozzy Osbourne
d) Rod Stewart

ANSWERS

8 - A, 9 - C, 10 - D.
4 - A, 5 - C, 6 - D, 7 - B.
QUIZ: 1 - B, 2 - D, 3 - D, 32. Ace.
Keep: 30. Pet, 31. Spy.
Amuse: 27. Tarn, 28.
Girth: 23. Pig, 25.
Emerge: 17. Halt, 19.
Least: 14. Vase, 15.
Tartan: 11. Lad, 13.
6. Colon, 9. Hurry, 10.

CROSSWORD: ACROSS:
5. Itch: 7. Challenger, 8.
Kill: 10. Twin, 12. Una;
13. Leaven; 16. Rhyme;
18. Dam; 20. Rota; 21.
Semi: 22. Alp; 24. Skier;
25. Artist; 26. Gut; 27.
Take: 29. Bump; 33. Ex-
ference: 34. West.
DOWN: 1. She; 2. Blew;
3. Mean; 4. Egg; 5. Ink;



#HOT'N'HORNY

LUSTY Lucie Wilde has a very naughty fantasy...

The 34L cracker, originally from Prague, revealed: "I love the idea of being a call girl – a high class one, of course!"

"Obviously, I don't want to sell my body but I do like to role play."

"It feels so naughty getting dressed up super sexy and then behaving like a whore."

"Think Julia Roberts in the film *Pretty Woman* – she looked so hot in her thigh-high PVC boots."

Lucie added: "Role play gives you the chance to act out a naughty side of yourself."

"I love meeting my boyfriend in a hotel bar and pretending that he's a client."

"I get a real kick out of people looking at us and at my outfit, and wondering if I'm a prostitute."

"Then we go up to the hotel room and, of course, I insist he hands me over my money first."

"Then I'm pure filth – it's all about sex. And he must get his money's worth..."



Lucie WILDE



MIDWEEK **MASSIVE** BOOBS

**Cheryl
Blossom**
38J, from Moscow

SHE may be from a hostile nation but there is no denying that Cheryl has fantastic boobs. She told us: "I will not have a word said against President Putin. "I do not want to mysteriously fall out of a window."

MIDWEEK Sport
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BABES

Salie Axl
32DD, from Liverpool



TEXT AFFAIRS



These Girls Love to Cheat! Hook Up NOW!
They Just Can't Keep Their Knickers On!



"I'm a posh wife who married in to money, but secretly I'm a dirty little cheat who loves sex & I will fuck any guy I can if I think my husband won't find out! Text me now & be my dirty little secret!"



"I'm a rebellious sexy babe who loves breaking rules, especially when it comes to anything sexual! I'm often caught slipping in places I shouldn't be but I love the risk!"



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"I'm a confident, sexy, horny babe & I don't think I should limit my sex life to one man & my husband has no choice in the matter! So text me now because I want to get filthy!"



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"I'm a Dom who loves to tease. I love playing with myself with my dildo in front of my pathetic ass. I'll let them up cooperate with a chastity belt & leave them until they beg me to be released!"

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By FANNY HUNTER



WELL guys, looks like the Midweek Sport have landed a right old deal for you lucky readers, 4 XXX SCORE magazines for only £20!

If you have been following my column on pages 44&45 of the Sunday Sport you will have seen some of the girls from The SCORE Groups range of amazing magazines. You can use the TEXT and CHAT services on those pages to speak with real horny girls like the ones in the mags! But now you can also get the magazines delivered to your door by simply

calling our hot line or visiting our shop website (details below)

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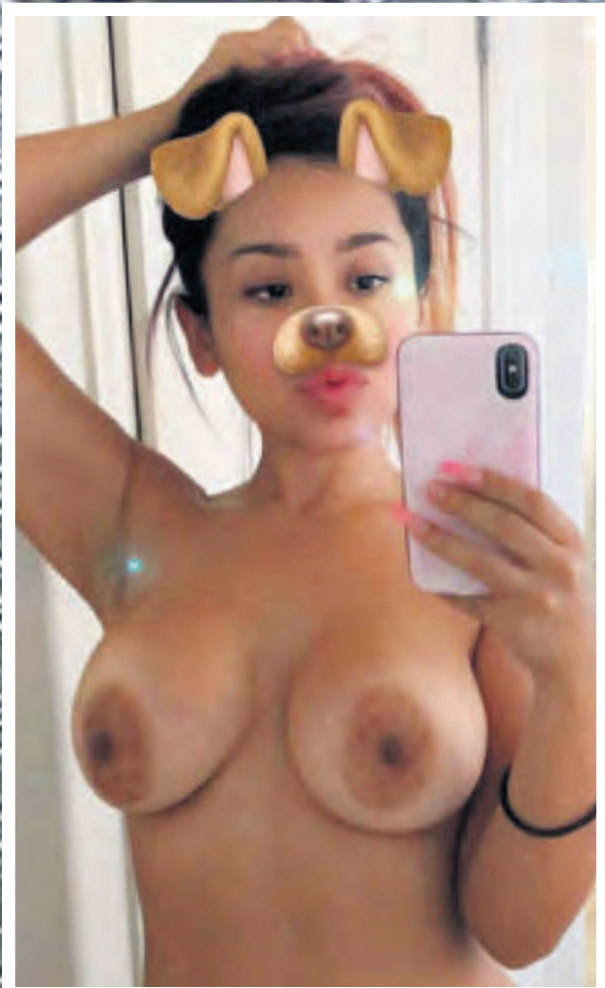
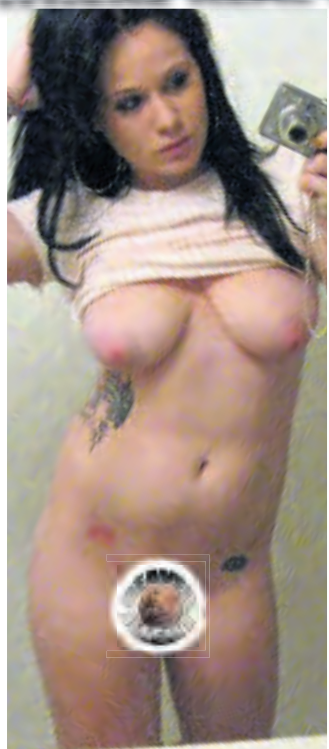
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Selfies

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Self-shooting topless pics is a craze that's sweeping the country – but you don't need a swanky new smartphone to enjoy 'em – as we'll be printing the pick of the snaps EVERY week!



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SHOW ME THE HONEY!

WELCOME to interactive Midweek Sport – where YOU get to choose the stunnas appearing on these pages!

That's right fellas, we publish sexy snaps of the babes you most want to see – TOPLESS or even NAKED.

Every Wednesday, *Show Me The Honey* features the cute curves of the glamour girls you're clamouring for. This service – UNIQUE to British newspapers – is totally FREE!

Just drop us an email to request@sundaysport.co.uk telling us why you want to see your favourite girl, then sit back and let us do the rest.

DEE IVENS

DRIVER Mike Sutcliffe is constantly bowled over by the timeless sexiness of glamour veteran Dee Ivens.

Mike, 59, from Plymouth, says Essex babe Dee gets him all in a tizz and he can't think straight when he catches a glimpse of her 34Ds.

Well-horny Mike said: "Dee is a thing of real beauty, I regularly flick through the *Sport* before I get down to work and whenever I catch a glimpse of her it sends me all to pieces."



KATHY LLOYD

MARVELLOUS Kath Lloyd would be the perfect catch for fisherman Wayne Campbell.

Wayne, 42, from the Isle of Man, regularly casts his net in the Irish Sea – but it's glamour legend Kathy who he really wants.

The Liverpool beauty boasts perfect 36E whoppers and Wayne is well and truly hooked on her.

He drooled: "Kathy is still the hottest girl I've ever seen."

"I wouldn't mind her riding my waves, if you know what I mean!"

TINA KAY

TATTOOIST Ian Bentley can't get enough of his ideal girl, Tina Kay.

The 52-year-old tattoo artist, from Chester, loves girls in sexy underwear and says Lithuanian lovely Tina is a real stunna.

Ian said: "Girls in skimpy undies really get me going and Tina is unbelievably sexy."

"I'd love to get her in a shop and help her try on some new things."

"Plus, I might have the chance to cop a feel of her 32D norks!"



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ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE

By JACK FARLEY

WILL STUART hopes England have developed the winning habit after reigniting their Guinness Six Nations title push with one-point wins against France and Scotland.

Seven successive narrow losses to top tier opposition, including in the Championship opener against Ireland, exposed an inability to deliver at clutch moments while heaping pressure on head coach Steve Borthwick.

But by toppling France and Scotland back to back at Allianz Stadium they appear to have turned a corner, even if they rode their luck against both opponents.

Now facing matches against Italy and Wales to close out the tournament, Stuart believes the tide has turned for England.

"For me winning and losing is very habitual. You lose a few games in a row and then you evolve from that, trying to get out of that rut and winning," the Bath prop said.

"Even in tight situations, to win is a massive moral boost. You get a huge boost from it.

"When we were losing really tight games, you could feel the growth of the team. That was exactly the same scenario I felt at the end of last year.

"I could feel massive growth, I could feel like we were being competitive. We just needed the dam to break at some point."

Retro

England avoided an unprecedented fifth successive loss to Scotland to lift the Calcutta Cup for the first time in five years – and this time Stuart was able to celebrate the moment.

"The last one we won in 2020 was my first Six Nations and that was the storm year," he said.

"My mum and girlfriend weren't happy.

"They came up, I didn't come off the bench and then we get on a plane but they were stuck in Edinburgh because of the storm!

"They have refused to go back up since.

"A few of the games I have played in against Scotland have been really frustrating. The Covid one with the retro shirts...I came off and felt like we threw...not to discredit Scotland, but I didn't know how it ended up like that.

"The last couple of years, I have felt we have really not been at the races and they have put us to the sword. We haven't been in those games."

Ospreys hooker Dewi Lake has been called into **WALES'** Six Nations squad ahead of remaining games against Scotland and England.

It is a major boost for interim head coach Matt Sherratt on the back of a rejuvenated performance against Ireland.

Lake, who captained Wales on tour to Australia last summer and throughout the Autumn Nations Series earlier this season, underwent biceps surgery in December.

His initial prognosis was up to 12 weeks on the sidelines after being injured in training. But the 25-year-old, who has won 18 caps and is likely to be a major contender

WHERE THERE'S A WILL!

Stuart believes England have got the winning habit for Borthwick



KICK AND CLAP: Borthwick

for the British and Irish Lions' Australia tour, is ahead of schedule.

Wales' 27-18 loss to Grand Slam-chasing Ireland was their 15th successive Test defeat, but they looked a transformed team under Sherratt, who has temporarily taken the reins following Warren Gatland's departure.

The addition of Lake takes Sherratt's squad up to 38 players as he joins fellow hookers Elliot Dee, Evan Lloyd and Sam Parry.

The Welsh Rugby Union added that six players have been released to their regions for United Rugby Championship action later this week.

Ospreys trio Parry, Dan Edwards and Ben Warren, Scarlets pair Joe Roberts and Taine Plumtree, together with Cardiff scrum-half Ellis Bevan, will report back for Wales duty on March 3.

Wales continue their Six Nations

campaign by tackling Scotland at Murrayfield five days later, before hosting England on March 15.

Garry Ringrose will learn on Thursday if he is able to play any further part in **IRELAND'S** Guinness Six Nations title bid after being sent off against Wales.

Ringrose will appear before a independent disciplinary hearing after receiving a 20-minute red card, upgraded from yellow by the bunker review system, for a dangerous tackle on centre Ben Thomas in the round three fixture.

Tackle

Ireland host France in a pivotal title clash in Dublin on March 8 before closing their Championship against Italy on the final weekend, with Ringrose in danger of missing both games.

The length of ban will be two to six matches depending on severity

of the incident with reductions available for previous clean records – which Ringrose has – and for attending tackle school.

Meanwhile Steve Borthwick has defended **ENGLAND'S** kick-heavy gameplan after they edged Scotland 16-15 to stay in Guinness Six Nations title contention.

Boos rang out at Allianz Stadium at the sight of scrum-half Alex Mitchell launching another box kick into the air early in the second half of an encounter which Borthwick's team lost 3-1 on the try count.

Scotland were far more dangerous with the ball and 2003 World Cup winner Will Greenwood described the performance as "a damning indictment of the attacking capabilities of this England side".

But Borthwick praised his players' tactical flexibility as the Calcutta Cup was reclaimed

through with a first victory in the fixture since 2020.

"It's not necessarily how we wish to play, but there are two teams out there and we found a way to win," said Borthwick, who revealed that George Furbank is unlikely to play in the Championship because of his broken arm.

"I know often in terms of the commentary everyone talks about one team (England), but we respect there were two teams on the pitch.

Arm wrestle

"I've been very clear that I want the team to play with ball in hand, to attack with it, to be brave and aggressive, but there is another team trying to stop you – and they're pretty good at it.

"That was a completely different game to one that we played in most

RUGBY UNION SIX NATIONS



IN THE THICK OF IT:
Will Stuart is digging
deep for England

recent times, it was a real tactical arm-wrestle in the middle of the pitch.

"Ultimately Scotland are strong in defence, strong at the breakdown and take the game to this kicking game."

"You've got to be very good and very judicious about when you run the ball and I thought the players did it well. I'm pleased the team found a way to adapt and found a way to win."

"I back the players. Ultimately it became a real arm-wrestle on the pitch and they've got to find a way to win that arm-wrestle."

England's second win of the Six Nations was founded on a courageous shift in defence that saw them make 206 tackles to Scotland's 91, although they missed a further 35 during the match.

When the Scots cut loose in the opening half-hour England were all at sea, but Borthwick was impressed

by the commitment of his players, who have now produced successive one-point wins having previously lost seven in a row against top-tier opposition by narrow margins.

"I'd point out how hard the team run for each other, which is definitely something that's developed," he said.

"I'm believer that you get back what you put in. I'm a believer that if you keep trying to do the right things, if you keep working hard, you will get regarded."

Suffering

"It's the way I was brought up, it's the way I believe in. So that's what we will continue to do. There's the making here of a really good team."

Back rows Tom Curry and Tom Willis enter the second fallow week with knocks after suffering a dead leg and concussion respectively. England's next assignment is against Italy at Twickenham in a fortnight.



WAITING:
Dewi Lake

THIS WEEK IN SPORT HISTORY

- 1874: Major Walter Clopton Wingfield patented his game of 'Sphairistike', which later became known as lawn tennis. He had demonstrated the new game to friends on the lawn of a house at Nantclwyd, Wales, during a Christmas party two months earlier.
- 1968: Hampden Park drew a crowd of 134,461 for the European Championship qualifier between Scotland and England – a record for the competition.
- 1979: Pakistan wicketkeeper Wasim Bari caught seven New Zealand batters during the Auckland Test – a record which England's Bob Taylor equalled a year later.
- 2001: Sprinter John Skeete was withdrawn from the Great Britain and Northern Ireland team for the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Lisbon after testing positive for the banned substance stanozolol. He took the substance innocently but was later suspended for two years by world governing body the IAAF.
- 2003: Canada opener John Davison hit what was then the fastest hundred in World Cup history against the West Indies in Pretoria, bringing up three figures off just 67 balls.
- 2005: Olympic silver medalist Amir Khan withdrew from the Amateur Boxing Association after a row over ticket allocation.
- 2009: British tennis player Anne Keothavong broke into the world's top 50 for the first time. The 25-year-old was the first British woman since Jo Durie in 1993 to feature in the top 50.
- 2010: Australia fast bowler Brett Lee announced his retirement from Test cricket.
- 2021: Tiger Woods was taken to hospital with injuries sustained in a traffic collision in California and survived "what would otherwise have been a fatal crash" because the interior of his vehicle remained intact, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva.
- 2022: England won the inaugural Arnold Clark Cup by beating Germany 3-1 at Molinex.
- 2023: Football commentator John Motson died at the age of 77.

HORSE RACING: ALL TODAY'S BEST BETS

BANGOR TIP:
Casa No Mento



Opera can hit the high notes

CHARLIE APPLEBY can extend his excellent record in the "European Road To The Kentucky Derby" Conditions Stakes at Kempton with Opera Ballo.

None other than subsequent 2000 Guineas winner Notable Speech was successful in the race last year, with Highland Avenue and Blue Trail others to score in the Godolphin blue.

Opera Ballo created a very favourable impression on his only start to date when winning by over eight lengths under Billy Loughnane.

William Buick takes over this time and while that may not seem out of the ordinary, Appleby also runs the 90-rated Olympus Point.

This is far from a penalty kick, however, so he will need to be as good as he looked on debut.

Roger Varian's Saddadd looked above average when winning on his first start,

By **MIKE FRANCIS**

Richard Hughes' Hot Shott was not beaten too far in the Solario Stakes and Marco Botti's Solveno has won three.

However, there will be long faces at Moulton Paddocks if the son of Ghaiyyath is beaten.

The step up to 10 furlongs should suit Andrew Balding's Tuscan Star in the Get Best Odds Guaranteed At Unibet Handicap.

Last of nine on his debut over seven furlongs, he won over a mile at Southwell next time out and defied a penalty at Newcastle when last seen over the same trip. He was well on top at the line there, pulling clear in the final stages, and looks sure to improve again for another step up in trip.

The Rebecca Menzies-trained High Moon has dropped to a workable mark ahead of the Entertain In Style At Wetherby Racecourse Handicap Chase at Wetherby.

Rated as high as 122 at his peak, the 10-year-old is



NAP TRAINER:
Charlie Appleby

down to 109 after being well beaten on his last couple of starts, allowing him to slot in at the top of this 0-110 contest.

He was never able to land a blow in a decent race won by his ill-fated stablemate Boomslang at Musselburgh on New Year's Day and perhaps conditions were lively enough for him at Market Rasen last time out.

Recent rain has turned the ground soft in West Yorkshire and sporting a

visor for the first time, and with Charlie Maggs taking a handy 5lb off his back, High Moon can bounce back to form.

Ira Hayes can remain unbeaten over obstacles for John McConnell in the Racing TV 100% Profits Returned To Racing Novices' Hurdle.

The six-year-old still holds an entry in the Albert Bartlett and while that looks unlikely, his Wexford bumper win and stroll to victory on his hurdling debut at Carlisle make him stand out.

Rude

That was 99 days ago so he has had three months off and will arrive in West Yorkshire fresh.

Sam Thomas saddled the first and third in the big handicap at Kempton on Saturday and his Steel Ally was narrowly denied in the National Spirit on Sunday at Fontwell, so his horses remain in rude health.

He runs C'Est Different in the Hope House Children's Hospice Cross Lanes

Handicap Hurdle at Bangor and the five-year-old will be short odds to bring up a rapid hat-trick.

He would have been a wide-margin winner at Carlisle last Monday before Dylan Johnston took things easy close home and he was almost caught on the line.

Things were much easier at Chepstow on Saturday when he followed up and as the first win came in a race for just conditional jockeys, he only has one penalty to carry.

SELECTIONS

BANGOR: 1.55 Casa No Mento, 2.25 Jackpot Cash, 2.55 Big City Roller, 3.30 Getaways Gift, 4.05 Winchmore Hill, 4.35 C'Est Different, 5.10 Pure Sirloin.

KEMPTON: 4.23 Groovy Baby, 4.55 No Release, 5.30 Manton Road, 6.00 Giant, 6.30 Jersey Rocs, 7.00 Got No Dollars, 7.30 OPERA BALLO (NAP), 8.00 Tuscan Star, 8.30 Currumbin.

WETHERBY: 1.45 Madame Luna, 2.15 Ira Hayes, 2.45 Micks Jet, 3.18 High Moon, 3.53 Bowling Buddy, 4.28 Emotional Roller, 5.00 Hard As Nails.

WINCANTON: 1.33 Bobby's Nelson, 2.05 Coco Brave, 2.35 Caeruleum, 3.05 Shan't Wait, 3.40 Smart Casual, 4.15 Go Sacke Go, 4.45 Ace Artist.



BIG CHANCE: David Pipe

Walk in the park for Pipe

THURSDAY TIPS

WALKADINA can return to winning ways in the Good Life Plus Free Prize Draws Novices' Hurdle at Ludlow.

David Pipe's mare had some decent bumper form to her name, notably chasing home Blue Las at Uttroter, and made an impressive start to her jumping career at that track when romping home by 13 lengths.

She then ran with credit to finish fourth in a hot Listed contest at Newbury which featured Listentoyourheart and Jubilee Alpha.

Walkadina faded badly when a beaten favourite at Wincanton on Boxing Day but has been given plenty of time to recover from that setback and a subsequent wind operation, so is fancied to get back on track.

Hellfire Princess is taken to land the Ian Meadow's 65th Year Handicap Hurdle for Kerry Lee in the same colours as National Spirit hero Nemean Lion.

This eight-year-old returned from 400 days to run a cracker at Hereford, holding a clear advantage at the final flight but ultimately going down by a neck after fluffing that jump.

Good Friday Fairy looks one to follow at Taunton in the Richard Williams Memorial Handicap Chase after hacking up by 16 lengths at Wincanton.

Ben Clarke's charge has been raised 8lb but won well off his new mark at Uttroter last season.

Space Voyage is another taken to double up in the Freda Woolley Memorial Mares' Handicap Chase following a comfortable eight-length victory at Huntingdon last time out.

Payment Plan has been in excellent form all winter and can hopefully keep that up in the Free Bets With BetUK Bet Club Handicap at Newcastle.

John Butler's five-year-old has taken home the top prize-money three times in his last five races.

SELECTIONS

CHELMSFORD: 5.30 Port Light, 6.00 The Spotlight Kid, 6.30 Southbank, 7.00 This Time Maybe, 7.30 War Zone, 8.00 Cloud Free, 8.30 Tempus.

LUDLOW: 2.35 WALKADINA (NAP), 3.10 Puddlesinthepark, 3.45 Comedy Kicks, 4.20 Heard That, 4.53 Hellfire Princess, 5.23 Zucayan.

NEWCASTLE: 1.35 Rubellite, 2.10 Payment Plan, 2.45 Just Ten High, 3.20 Oriental Prince, 3.55 Regalian, 4.30 Blackcurrent, 5.00 Tommytohoots, 5.35 Barnaby.

TAUNTON: 1.50 Diamonds For Luck, 2.25 Rip Wheeler, 3.00 Good Friday Fairy, 3.35 Longshanks, 4.10 Space Voyage, 4.45 Blue Carpet.

FERGIE REVVED UP TO BOSS GERS

FORMER Rangers captain Barry Ferguson has reflected on "a whirlwind 24 hours" after being placed in charge of first-team affairs until the end of the season following Philippe Clement's sacking.

Saturday's 2-0 home defeat to St Mirren proved to be the final straw for Clement, with the club announcing the Belgian's departure on Sunday night after 16 months at the helm.

The surprise loss left second-placed Rangers 13 points behind Old Firm rivals Celtic in the William Hill Premiership and came after a damaging Scottish Cup reverse to minnows Queen's Park on February 9.

Ferguson won five league titles, five Scottish Cups and five League Cups in two spells at Ibrox. "If I am being honest, it came out of the blue, so it has been a whirlwind 24 hours, but I am just happy to get it done, get my staff together, get to the training ground and get going," Ferguson said.

"I had to be respectful that my backroom staff were in jobs elsewhere, so we had to get all this sorted. Thankfully, the guys worked hard, and so did the chief

By **JOHN ANTHONY**

executive and the chairman, and we got it done quicker than expected.

"When I was asked about this job, it was one I couldn't turn down. Albeit it is only for three months, but it is my job to go and get a kick out of this group of players.

Assessing Rangers this season, Ferguson added: "In terms of Europe, some of the performances have been top class, but domestically, that is your bread and butter, that is where you have got to win most weeks.

"You are always going to have a bump in the road, but I think there have been too many bumps in the road, so it is my job as a manager and the staff's job to try and get a level of consistency in the squad.

"There are definitely quality players, and they look a good group, they just look a bit flat at this moment in time and it is our job to try and get this confidence back up.

"It is all about winning at Rangers. That is how I was

brought up, and that is the way I want my players to be.

"You have to win every game with the demands and the expectation put on you here. When people come to watch, they expect you to win games, and I don't think we have won enough this year."

On Clement's departure, chief executive Patrick Stewart told Rangers' website: "Philippe and his team have worked tirelessly during their time at the club and have played an important role in developing the first team's young players.

"I want to reiterate, the issues we are facing run deeper than the manager. The ongoing football review seeks to address those issues and we will continue to implement its findings in the coming weeks and months ahead of appointing a new, permanent manager.

"Ultimately, the team's response following their early exit from the Scottish Cup was a cause for deep concern, leading the board to conclude that action had to be taken now."

Alex Rae, Colin Stewart and Stephan van der Heyden followed Clement out of the door.



FIGHTING ON: Arteta

Arteta: I will never give up title race

By **PAUL THOMAS**

MIKEL Arteta said he would concede the Premier League title to Liverpool "over my dead body" as he insisted Arsenal can still be crowned champions.

The Gunners head to Forest on Wednesday 11 points adrift of Liverpool following the Reds' weekend victory at Man City, a day after Arteta's side slumped to a 1-0 loss against West Ham.

Arteta said: "I'm not going to stop, over my dead body.

"If I think that way, I'll go home. Mathematically, it's possible. You have to play every game. Suddenly, three days ago, we could close the gap to five points. It doesn't matter. We have to continue to go.

"The difficulty is higher than it was. But if you want to win the Premier League, you're going to have to do something special. You're going to have to do something that nobody else has done."

The Gunners have been Liverpool's closest challengers, and have progressed to the last 16 of the Champions League, but Arteta believes his side could have been dumped out of Europe and left in mid-table.

He continued: "If somebody tells you at the start of the season, by this time, you have played five times with a red card over half an hour in each of those games, and you have lost this amount of players, what's the bet? You are in the middle of the table, at least, and you are out of the Champions League.

"That's not the situation. So that tells you the resilience, the ambition that the team has and that has been one of the proudest moments in my time to work.

"It was a disappointing weekend. In the previous 15 games, we have won 10 and drawn five.

"We have been extremely consistent for the last three and a half months, considering everything that we've been through, and we have generated that momentum.

"When you are trying to build that momentum and we're putting so much into it, especially with the circumstances, the defeat against West Ham was a very hard one to take."

GERs RETURN:
Barry Ferguson

JOS IS BOSS

Root reckons Buttler is real deal as skipper

JOE ROOT hailed Jos Buttler's "brilliant" white-ball captaincy as the Yorkshireman claimed England are "doing more things right" than when he led the Test side.

Buttler has overseen a downturn in fortunes, with England losing both limited-overs World Cups in the last 18 months, while they have lost 17 of their last 24 ODIs.

England will be staring down the barrel of Champions Trophy elimination if they do not beat Afghanistan after a tournament record score of 351 was overhauled by Australia in their opening match on Saturday.

Having led England during a fallow period, with just one win in 17 Tests, Root is convinced they are on the right track under Buttler.

Root, who captained England from February

CRICKET

2017 before stepping down in April 2022, said: "I think this team are doing more things right than maybe some of the teams I captained were doing.

"The fact that we are doing a lot of good things right is a good thing and that's what we have to really focus on and draw on more than be frustrated by it. We are moving in the right direction.

"It was a great game of cricket, we're gutted that we were on the wrong side of it but if we do that time and time again, we're going to be winning a lot of cricket games."

Buttler succeeded Eoin Morgan as England skipper in 2022 and presided over their T20 World Cup win but, as focus shifted to improving the Test team, the white-ball sides deteriorated. Test head coach

Brendon McCullum adding the T20 and ODI sides to his portfolio was a shot in the arm but the Kiwi and Buttler have won just one of their nine matches together so far.

But ahead of their must-win Group B contest against Afghanistan in Lahore on Wednesday, Root has backed his fellow 2019 50-over World Cup winner to get England firing on all cylinders once again.

Asked what advice he would give

Buttler, Root replied: "Trust everything that he's doing. He's doing so much right, making good decisions and creating a really good environment for us to thrive in.

"You've seen that with the majority of the performance in the last game. I think he's a brilliant leader, he's the best white-ball player we've ever produced.

"He's got the full support of everyone within our dressing room to keep going and keep bringing everything that he's brought so far to this team in the last little while while I've been involved."

Root, who has been shifted down to no4, has only been



TOP TEAM:
Buttler and Root

SPORT QUIZ

1. At what Games did Sir Chris Hoy win his first Olympic medal?
2. Joe Hart made his senior debut for which football club?
3. Which Formula One grand prix is staged at the Marina Bay Street Circuit?
4. Which English city does two-time world heptathlon champion Katarina Johnson-Thompson come from?
5. Who has recorded the most runner-up finishes at the Open Golf Championship?
6. What year did Wembley Stadium host its first League Cup final?
7. How old was George Foreman when he became the oldest heavyweight champion?
8. Who is the youngest player to captain Wales' men's rugby union team?
9. Who have Arsenal been drawn against in the last 16 of the Champions League?
10. Which Scottish football club is nicknamed 'The Maroon Machine'?
11. Who was the last Manchester United player to win the Premier League Golden Boot?
12. Which Formula One race is staged at the Albert Park Circuit?
13. Dario Vidossic is head coach of which Women's Super League club?
14. Which tennis player won the French Open women's singles title four times in five years between 2003 and 2007?
15. Who finished runner-up to Kyren Wilson in last year's World Snooker Championship?
16. Goodwood Racecourse is in which English county?
17. In which sport did 14-year-old Briton Bly Twomey win two Paralympic bronze medals at Paris 2024?
18. Sophia Gardens is the home of which County Championship cricket club?
19. Aston Villa and England forward Ollie Watkins began his career with which current League One club?
20. With five tries in three matches, which French rugby player is the leading try scorer in this year's Guinness Six Nations?

ANSWERS: 1. Sydney 2000
2. Tottenham
3. Singapore
4. Liverpool
5. Nicklaus (seven), 6. 1967
7. Z. Schwartz, 8. 1997
9. 11, 10. 1997, 11. 1997
12. 1997, 13. 1997
14. 1997, 15. 1997
16. 1997, 17. 1997
18. 1997, 19. 1997
20. 1997

IT'S ALL HAPPENING IN THE

CITY BOSS WAITS ON HAALAND

Pep hopes to have Norwegian back for tricky clash against bogey team Spurs

ERLING Haaland remains a fitness doubt for Manchester City's trip to Tottenham on Wednesday after missing the last two games.

City's top scorer sat out defeats against Real Madrid and Liverpool after jarring his knee in the 4-0 win over Newcastle on February 15, and his absence has been telling with City struggling to turn their dominance of possession into chances in Sunday's 2-0 loss to Liverpool.

Pep Guardiola said last night he was optimistic the 24-year-old will be available in north London but no decision has yet been taken.

"We will know it after training," Guardiola said. "I hope so but I don't know yet."

"He feels better but the last two games he could not play. We'll see

By JOHN ANTHONY

tomorrow." Haaland's absence has left Omar Marmoush to lead the line, but the Egypt international has been unable to follow up his hat-trick against Newcastle.

But Guardiola said he had been very happy with the impact made by Marmoush, as well as fellow January signings Abdoukodie Khusanov and Nico Gonzalez.

"It has been really good for the short time they are training," Guardiola said.

"Khusanov arrived and played against Chelsea, Orient, Newcastle, Madrid and Liverpool, so a tough and difficult schedule to come into in, with the lack of communication as he still doesn't speak English fluently, so the impact is really good."

"Omar as well. Nico plays well but the impact is really good, we are satisfied. Of course Victor (Reis),

when he has minutes, he will always be in a good level."

The four mid-season signings illustrated the scale of the rebuild that City have been forced into this season following a number of injuries and the dramatic decline of some of the older players in the squad.

Out of the Champions League and with their title defence over, they face a fight to get into the top four.

Challenge

But Guardiola denied this rebuild is the biggest challenge of his career. "No, we have done it already," he said. "After nine years, it is not the same team we started with nine years ago. We have done it two or three times already. It is not the biggest challenge."

"The challenge I had is when I was starting my managerial career with my staff. I proved myself and my staff proved we can do it." Spurs

remain a bogey team for Guardiola and City, particularly away from home, as City have won only two of their eight games at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Their last trip there in October ended in a 2-1 defeat in the Carabao Cup, a result which was the first in a five-game losing streak – the first of Guardiola's managerial career – that also included a 4-0 loss to Spurs at the Etihad Stadium as City's season went off the rails.

But if City have endured a rocky campaign, things have been even worse for Ange Postecoglou's side following an injury crisis, and they remain 12th in the Premier League despite winning their last three games.

Guardiola said Spurs are a better team than their results show.

"They're a fantastic team, with individual quality," Guardiola said. "The rhythm they play and intensity they do, incredible runners in the

THE PREMIER LEAGUE!



KEY MOMENT:
Haaland has been a big miss for Man City

transitions but I think lately they have a few more extra passes.

"They can do it, especially when James Maddison plays. The results dictate one thing, but the opinion of the team is the opposite."

Postecoglou believes it was only natural City would drop from their "unprecedented standard" but would not be surprised to see them win the league next season.

Standards

City moved quickly in the winter transfer window with the big-money additions of Abdou Diallo, Vitor Reis, Omar Marmoush and Nico Gonzalez in an effort to rebuild an ageing squad which had won four titles in a row and Postecoglou can foresee a world where they bounce back.

"It looks like they're going through a rough trot at the moment but that's because of the unbelievable

standards they have set since Pep has been there," Postecoglou said.

"It's just a way of elite sport, you know and it just sheds light on how extraordinary they have been."

"The fact that they did win four in a row and the consistency of that four in a row of just the sheer numbers they accumulated in terms of points, in terms of goals, in terms of wins, competing on all fronts, it's an unbelievable and unprecedented standard that they set."

"And it's only natural that that's never going to continue forever, I mean that's just not sustainable."

"But if they bounce back next year and win it and you say they've won five out of six, you'd be going 'they're still pretty good'."

"Key injuries and things that are going against them sometimes bring you back to the field and that's elite sport, it's just fine margins."

Micky van de Ven and Cristian

Romero remain sidelined and Ben Davies is set to miss out, which means Kevin Danso and Archie Gray – out-of-position – will continue at the heart of defence.

Postecoglou added: "It's a great challenge."

"They will have times in the game where they take control and it's how we deal with that and cope with that. We've done that not too bad in the games we've played against them and for us that will be the challenging bit."



RARING TO GO:
Postecoglou

SPORT ON THE TELLY

WEDNESDAY

- **FOOTBALL:** Premier League, Manchester United v Ipswich – TNT Sports 4 1830; Liverpool v Newcastle – TNT Sports 1 1830; Nottingham Forest v Arsenal – TNT Sports 2 1830; Tottenham v Manchester City – TNT Sports 3 1830; Scottish Premiership, Kilmarnock v Rangers – Sky Sports Football and Sky Sports Main Event 1915; Women's Nations League, England v Spain – ITV4 1915; DFB Pokal, RB Leipzig v Wolfsburg – Premier Sports 2 1945; Coppa Italia, Juventus v Empoli – Premier Sports 1 2000.
- **CRICKET:** Champions Trophy, Afghanistan v England – Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Cricket 0830.
- **MOTOR RACING:** Formula One, testing – Sky Sports Main Event, Sky Sports F1 0650, Sky Sports F1 1155.
- **SNOOKER:** World Open – Eurosport 1 0600 and 1130.
- **TENNIS:** Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships – Sky Sports Tennis 1100; Abierto Mexicano Telcel, Merida Open Akron, Movistar Chile Open, ATP Open – Sky Sports Tennis 1500.
- **BASKETBALL:** NBA, New York Knicks v Philadelphia 76ers – TNT Sports 1 0000 (Thu).

THURSDAY

- **FOOTBALL:** Premier League, West Ham v Leicester – TNT Sports 1 1900; League Two, Barrow v Carlisle – Sky Sports Football 2000.
- **CRICKET:** Champions Trophy, Pakistan v Bangladesh – Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Cricket 0830.
- **DARTS:** Premier League, Exeter – Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Action 1900.
- **GOLF:** LPGA, HSBC Women's World Championship – Sky Sports Golf 0230; DP World Tour, The Investec South African Open Championship – Sky Sports Golf 1100; PGA Tour, The Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches – Sky Sports Golf 1600.
- **MOTOR RACING:** Formula One, testing – Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports F1 0650, Sky Sports F1 1155.
- **SNOOKER:** World Open – Eurosport 1 0600 and 1130.
- **TENNIS:** Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships – Sky Sports Tennis 1100; Abierto Mexicano Telcel, Merida Open Akron, Movistar Chile Open, ATP Open – Sky Sports Tennis 1500.
- **BASKETBALL:** NBA, Milwaukee Bucks v Denver Nuggets – TNT Sports 1 0030 (Fri); Phoenix Suns v New Orleans Pelicans – TNT Sports 1 0300 (Fri).

FRIDAY

- **FOOTBALL:** FA Cup, Aston Villa v Cardiff – ITV 1930; Championship, Sheffield Wednesday v Sunderland – Sky Sports Football and Sky Sports Main Event 1930; Bundesliga, Stuttgart v Bayern Munich – Sky Sports Mix 1930; Scottish Championship, Partick Thistle v Livingston – BBC Scotland 1945.
- **CRICKET:** Champions Trophy, Afghanistan v Australia – Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Cricket 0830.
- **DARTS:** UK Open – ITV4 1145 and 1900.
- **GOLF:** LPGA, HSBC Women's World Championship – Sky Sports Golf 0230; DP World Tour, The Investec South African Open Championship – Sky Sports Golf 1100; PGA Tour, The Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches – Sky Sports Golf 1600, Sky Sports Main Event 1730.
- **MOTOR RACING:** Formula One, testing – Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports F1 0650, Sky Sports F1 1155.
- **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Super League, Leigh v Catalans – Sky Sports Action 1930.
- **RUGBY UNION:** URC, Munster v Edinburgh – Premier Sports 2 1900; Zebre v Dragons – BBC Two Wales and Premier Sports 1 1930.
- **TENNIS:** Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships – Sky Sports Tennis 1100; Abierto Mexicano Telcel, Merida Open Akron, Movistar Chile Open, ATP Open – Sky Sports Tennis 1500.
- **BASKETBALL:** NBA, Boston Celtics v Cleveland Cavaliers – TNT Sports 1 0030 (Sat); Los Angeles Lakers v Los Angeles Clippers – TNT Sports 1 0300 (Sat).

SATURDAY

- **FOOTBALL:** FA Cup, Crystal Palace v Huddersfield – BBC One 1200; Manchester City v Plymouth – ITV4 1700; Championship, Leeds v West Brom – Sky Sports Football 1230; Scottish Premiership, St Mirren v Celtic – Sky Sports Football and Sky Sports Main Event 1730; Serie A, game TBC – TNT Sports 2 1930.
- **CRICKET:** Champions Trophy, South Africa v England – Sky Sports Main

- Event and Sky Sports Cricket 0830.
- **GOLF:** LPGA, HSBC Women's World Championship – Sky Sports Golf 0230; DP World Tour, The Investec South African Open Championship – Sky Sports Golf 1030; PGA Tour, The Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches – Sky Golf 1500, Sky Main Event 1730.
- **DARTS:** UK Open – ITV4 1245, ITV 3 1900.
- **HORSE RACING:** Kelso – ITV 1300.
- **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Super League, Wakefield v St Helens – BBC Two England 1425; Wigan v Warrington – Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Action 2030.
- **RUGBY UNION:** URC, Lions v Sharks – Premier Sports 1 1200; Leinster v Cardiff – Premier Sports 2 1430, SAC 1445; Bulls v Stormers – Premier Sports 1 1430; Ulster v Scarlets – BBC Two Northern Ireland, Premier Sports 2 and SAC 1700; Glasgow v Ospreys – Premier Sports 1 1900; Connacht v Benetton – Sky Sports 2 1915.
- **TENNIS:** Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships – Sky Sports Tennis 1100; Abierto Mexicano Telcel, Merida Open Akron, Movistar Chile Open, ATP Open – Sky Sports Tennis 1500.
- **BASKETBALL:** NBA, Charlotte Hornets v Washington Wizards – TNT Sports 2 2300.

SUNDAY

- **FOOTBALL:** Scottish Premiership, Hibernian v Hearts – Sky Sports Football and Sky Sports Main Event 1230; Aberdeen v Dundee United – Premier Sports 1 1500; FA Cup, Newcastle v Brighton – ITV 1245; Manchester United v Fulham – BBC One 1600; Women's Super League, Brighton v Chelsea – Sky Sports Premier League 1400, Sky Sports Main Event 1500; Arsenal v West Ham – Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Premier League 1700; Serie A, game TBC – TNT Sports 1 1930; LaLiga, Real Betis v Real Madrid – Premier Sports 2 1515; Real Mallorca v Alaves – Premier Sports 2 1730; Osasuna v Valencia – Premier Sports 2 2000; Bundesliga, FC Augsburg v SC Freiburg – Sky Sports Football 1630.
- **CRICKET:** Champions Trophy, India v New Zealand – Sky Sports Main Event, Sky Sports Cricket 0830.
- **GOLF:** LPGA, HSBC Women's World Championship – Sky Sports Golf 0230; DP World Tour, The Investec South African Open Championship – Sky Sports Golf 1030; PGA Tour, The Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches – Sky Sports Golf 1430, Sky Sports Main Event 2000.
- **TENNIS:** Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships and Merida Open Akron – Sky Sports Tennis 1500.
- **BASKETBALL:** NBA, Boston Celtics v Denver Nuggets – TNT Sports 2 1800.

SUNDAY

- **SOCCER:** Premier League, Newcastle v Nottingham Forest – Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Premier League 1300; Manchester City v Liverpool – Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Premier League 1600; William Hill Premiership, St Johnstone v Hearts – Sky Sports Football 1100; Bundesliga, RB Leipzig v Heidenheim – Sky Sports Football 1420; Bayern Munich v Eintracht Frankfurt – Sky Sports Football 1620; Hoffenheim v Stuttgart – Sky Sports Football 1820; Serie A, Cagliari v Juventus – TNT Sports 1 1930.
- **CRICKET:** Champions Trophy, Pakistan v India – Sky Sports Cricket and Sky Sports Main Event 0830.
- **RUGBY UNION:** Six Nations, Italy v France – ITV 1415.
- **TENNIS:** WTA, Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships – Sky Sports Tennis 0800; ATP, Qatar ExxonMobil Open – Sky Sports Tennis 0800, Rio Open – Sky Sports Tennis 0800.
- **GOLF:** PGA Tour, Mexico Open at VidantaWorld – Sky Sports Golf 1400 and Sky Sports Main Event 2000; DP World Tour, Magical Kenya Open – Sky Sports Golf 0900; LPGA Tour, Honda LPGA Thailand – Sky Sports Golf 0600 and Sky Sports Main Event 0700.
- **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Super League, Leigh v Huddersfield – BBC Two England 1415.
- **SNOOKER:** World Open – Eurosport 2 0600.
- **CYCLING:** Men's UAE Tour, stage seven – Eurosport 2 1050; Tour of Andalusia, stage five – Eurosport 2 1230; Tour of Algarve, stage five – Eurosport 2 1500.
- **BASKETBALL:** NBA, Boston Celtics v New York Knicks – TNT Sports 2 1800; Golden State Warriors v Dallas Mavericks – TNT Sports 2 2030; Minnesota Timberwolves v Oklahoma City Thunder – TNT Sports 1 0230 (Mon).

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FULL STORY: PAGE 5

CUTS HURT RUBEN

Boss: United job losses 'partly my fault'

RUBEN Amorim says he feels responsibility for Man United's latest round of job cuts amid their struggles on the pitch.

United expect up to 200 employees to lose their jobs as part of a plan to improve the club's finances. United have experienced

By JOHN ANTHONY

five successive years of financial losses and around 250 redundancies were made last year.

Efforts to restore profitability have not been helped by a lack of footballing success, and Saturday's draw with Everton left Amorim's side languishing in 15th place

in the Premier League table.

Asked if the news of cuts had emphasised the importance of turning a corner, the 40-year-old said: "That is clear and of course we have to address all the problems in the club."

"But one important piece of this moment is to understand how we got

into this situation and it has to do a lot with the lack of success with the football team, because I think we are the engine of any football club."

"I just want to help the club in my department, to improve the team and improve the players and to have success. We need to think in solutions in this moment."

PRESSURE: Ruben Amorim

